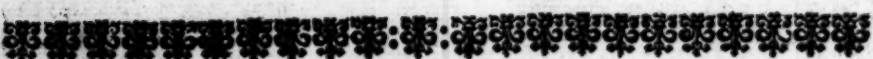




I Do Appoint Robert Pawlet to Print the
Tryal of Nathaniel Reading Esq;

April 24th. 1679.

Fra. North.

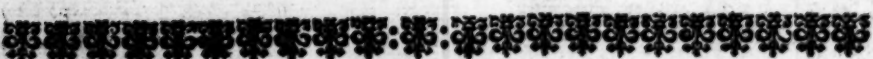




I Do Appoint Robert Pawlet to Print the
Tryal of Nathaniel Reading Esq;

April 24th. 1679.

Fra. North.



T H E
T R Y A L
O F

Nathaniel Reading Esq;

For Attempting to Stifle

The Kings Evidence

As to the HORRID

P L O T:

Had before

The Commissioners of OYER and TERMINER

At the Kings-Bench-Barr at Westminster,

On Thursday the 24th. of April 1679.

Who being Convicted upon full Evidence, received Judgement
to be Fined 1000 l. Imprisoned for One Year;

And to be set in the Pillory on *Monday* then next following.

L O N D O N,
Printed for *Robert Pawlet* at the Bible in *Chan-*
cery-Lane near *Fleet-street*, 1679.

THE
T R Y A L

Richard Reading Esq;

For Attempting to Suffice

The Kings Evidence

As to the HORRID

P L O T

Had before

The Commissioners of Oyer and Terminer

At the Kings Bench-Bar at Westminster,

On Thursday the 24th of April 1692.

Who being Convicted upon full Evidence received Judgment
to be fined 1000 l. Impsoned for One Year.

And to be set in the Pillory on Mondays, then next following.

L O N D O N
Printed for Robert Papper at the Bible in Corn
hill, and near Fleet-Street, 1692.

As to the HORRID

PLOT.

Sir James Butler's Charge to the Grand-Jury.

HIS Majesty upon the Address of the Honourable house of Commons, hath been pleased to give order for this *great* Commission of *Oyer and Terminer* that hath been read to issue out; And the Court thereby hath authority to inquire of, hear and determine several other offences: yet at this present you shall have no other in Charge than the particular offence recited in the Indictment in my hand. It is a Crime of an unusual and rare nature: The Indictment is against *Nathaniel Reading*: it sets forth the Plot against the King, the Government, and the Religion established here by Law, the horrid and pernicious mischiefs and consequences of it: It sets forth likewise, that several persons, and names them, as *Coleman, Ireland* and *Gron* were Tried, Condemned and Executed for the same: That several Lords in the Tower do stand Impeached in Parliament of the said High

Treason and other High Crimes and misdemeanors, that this was well known to Mr. *Reading*, and that notwithstanding he hath so misbehaved himself in endeavouring to lessen and Stifle (as much as in him lay) the Kings Evidence, that if it had not been happily prevented might have been of most mischievous consequence. I shall not take upon me to recite the whole Indictment to you being very long and not seen or perused by me till now, but You shall have the same along with you, it shall be read to you, Your duty is to examine and consider of the Evidence to be offered you on the behalf of the King, for the proof of the Charge against the Offenders, if you find it amount to a Proof of what is laid therein; Nay, I must tell you if you have but probable Evidence, you ought to find the Bill, because your Presentment and Verdict is not a Conviction but in the Nature of an Accusation in Order to bring the Prisoner to a fair Trial: and if you do not find the Bill, he shall never be brought to his Trial, but if you (having Probable Evidence) find it, he shall receive his Trial by the Petty Jury; and upon the Merits be either Acquitted or Convicted. This is as much as I think is fit for me to say to you at this time, upon this occasion: You may please to go together and take the Witnesses along with you.

Then the Witnesses were Sworn and the Grand Jury withdrew, and after the space of about half an hour, returned finding it *Billa Vera*. After which the Court Adjourned to Thursday the 24th. day of April at 8. a Clock in the Morning in the same place.

On which day the Commissioners hereunder named being met,

Viz. Sir *Francis North*, Knight, Lord Chief Justice of His Majesties Court of Common Pleas.

William Mountague, Esq; Lord Chief Baron of His Majesties Court of Exchequer.

Sir *William Wyld*, Kt and Baronet, one of his Majesties Justices of the Kings Bench.

Sir *Hugh Wyndham*, Kt. one of his Majesties Justices of the Common Pleas.

Sir Robert Atkins, Knight of the Bath, another of the Justices of the Common-Pleas.

Sir Edward Thurland, Knight, one of the Barons of the Exchequer.

Yare Bertie Esq., another of the Justices of the Common-Pleas.

Sir Thomas Jones, Knight, another of the Justices of the Kings Bench.

Sir Francis Bramston, Kt, another of the Barons of the Exchequer.

Sir William Dolben, Kt, another of the Justices of the Kings Bench.

Sir William Jones, Knight, His Majesties Attorney General.

Sir James Eyler, Knight, one of the Kings Counsel, and the Queens Attorney.

Sir Philip Mathews, Baronet.

Sir Thomas Orby, Knight and Baronet.

Sir Thomas Eyde, Knight.

Sir William Bowles, Knight.

Sir Thomas Stringer, Serjeant at Law.

Sir Charles Pitfield, Knight.

Thomas Robinson,

Humsfrey Wyrley,

Thomas Haryes, &

Richard Gower,

Esquires.

Proclamation was made for Attendance, and the Grand Inquest being called, Sir Francis North, Lord Chief Justice of the Common-Pleas, (The Lord Chief Justice being out of Town) spoke to them thus,

L. Ch. Just. North. You of the Grand Jury, This Session is upon a particular occasion, and that which lay upon you was to find the Bill, and that you have done, and we do not see any thing further for you to do, and therefore the Court discharges you from any further attendance this Session.

Then Mr. Reading was sent for, and brought to the Barr by Captain Richardson the Keeper of Newgate, and Silence being Proclaimed, the Clerk of the Crown read the Indictment to him.

Clerk of Crown, Mr. Reading, hearken to your Indictment.

YOU

YOU stand Indicted by the Name of Nathaniel Reading, late of the
 Parish of St. Margaret Westminster in the County of Middlesex,
 Esq., That whereas Edward Coleman, William Ireland, and John
 Grove, and other (unknown) false Traitors against our most Serene Lord
 King CHARLES the II. 24th day of April in the 30th Year of His
 Reign, in the Parish of St. Margarets Westminster in the County of
 Middlesex, had Traiterously among themselves, Conspired, Consulted, and
 Agreed, our said most Serene Lord the KING to bring and put to Death,
 and Final Destruction; and to move War against Him our Lord the KING
 within this Realm of England, and the Religion in the same Kingdome
 rightly and by the Laws of the same Realm Establisbed, to Change and
 Alter to the Superstition of the Romish Church, and the Government of the
 same Kingdom to Subvert; for which certain most wicked Treasons, and Trai-
 terous Conspiracies, Consultations, and Agreements aforesaid, They the said
 Coleman, Ireland and Grove in due manner and according to the Laws of
 this Kingdom of England afterwards were Attainted, and had therefore
 undergone the Pains of Death: And whereas William Earl of Powis,
 William Viscount Stafford, John Lord Belasis, Henry Lord Arun-
 del of Warder, William Lord Petre, and Sir Henry Tichburne Baronet,
 the 30th day of November, in the abovesaid 30th Year of the Reign of
 our said Lord the KING, at the said Parish of St. Margarets Westminster
 in the County aforesaid, were of the aforesaid Treasons in a Lawful manner Ac-
 cused, and thereupon according to the due Form of Law in the Tower
 of London (being the Prison of our said Lord the KING) were Com-
 mitted, there safely to be kept to Answer the aforesaid Treasons, whereof the
 same William Earl of Powis, William Viscount Stafford, John Lord
 Belasis, Henry Lord Arundel, and William Lord Petre in Parliament,
 by the Commons in the same Parliament assembled, are Impeached: But you the
 said Nathaniel Reading the aforesaid Premises sufficiently knowing and
 being Devilishly affected against our most Serene Lord the KING your Su-
 preme and Natural Lord, and devising and with all your Might intending to
 Disturb the Peace and common Tranquillity of this Realm, and the Govern-
 ment of the same Kingdom, and the Sincere Religion of God in the same Right-
 ly and by the Laws of the said Realm Establisbed, at your Will and Plea-
 sure to Change and Alter, and the State of this Kingdom through all its parts
 well Instituted and Ordained, wholly to Subvert; and to Obstruct, hinder
 and stifle the Discovery of the said Treasons, and as much as in you lay
 the due Course of Law in that part to shift off and retard in the Prosecu-
 tion of Justice against the said William Earl of Powis, William
 Viscount of Stafford, William Lord Petre, and Sir Henry Tichburne:

You

You the said Nathaniel Reading, the 29th day of March in the 31th
 year of our said Lord the King, in the said Parish of St. Margarets
 Westminster in the County aforesaid, in the presence of the aforesaid
 William Earl of Powis, William Viscount Stafford, William Lord
 Petre, and Sir Henry Tichburn, falsely, advisedly, corruptly, and
 against the duty of your Allegiance, did unlawfully solicit, suborn
 and endeavour to perswade one William Bedloe, (who on the twenty
 eighth day of March in the said 31th. year, in due manner did give
 Information of the said Treasons, and whom You the said Reading
 the day and year last aforesaid, did well know the Information of the
 said Treasons as aforesaid, to have given on the part of our Lord the
 King) upon the Tryal of the aforesaid William Earl of Powis, William
 Viscount Stafford, William Lord Petre, and Sir Henry Tichburn,
 for the Treasons aforesaid, to be had, to lessen and stifle, and to omit
 to give in Evidence the full Truth according to his knowledge of the aforesaid
 Treasons against them the said William Earl of Powis, William
 Viscount Stafford, William Lord Petre and Sir Henry Tichburn, and
 to give such Evidence as You the said Nathaniel Reading should direct:
 And You the said Nathaniel Reading, sooner, and more effectually to
 perswade the aforesaid William Bedloe, to lessen and stifle, and to omit
 to give in Evidence the full Truth according to his knowledge against the
 said William Earl of Powis, William Viscount Stafford, William
 Lord Petre, and Sir Henry Tichburn upon their Tryals, and to give
 such Evidence as You the aforesaid Nathaniel Reading would direct:
 You the said Nathaniel Reading, after upon the said 29th day of
 March in the 31th year aforesaid, at the aforesaid Parish of St. Mar-
 garets, Westminster in the said County, falsely, advisedly, corruptly,
 and against the duty of your Allegiance, unlawfully did give to the same
 William Bedloe fifty six pieces of rayned gold of this Kingdom,
 called Guineys: And also falsely, advisedly, corruptly, and un-
 lawfully, and against the duty of your Allegiance, the day and year aforesaid,
 at the aforesaid Parish of St. Margarets Westminster in the
 said County of Middlesex, did promise to the said Bedloe, that
 he the said Bedloe within a certain time, by You the aforesaid Nathaniel
 Reading to the said Bedloe proposed, should have and receive
 divers other great sums of Money and other great Rewards, for less-
 ing and stifling, and omitting to give in Evidence the full Truth ac-
 cording to his knowledge of the aforesaid Treasons against the said
 William Earl of Powis, William Viscount Stafford, William

Lord Petre, and Sir Henry Tichburne, and for giving such Evidence as You the aforesaid Nathaniel Reading to the said William Bedloe should direct, to the great hindrance, obstruction and suppression of Justice, in manifest contempt of the Laws of this Realm, to the evil and pernicious example of all others in the like Case offending, and against the Peace of our Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity, &c.

How say you Mr. Reading, are you Guilty of this Trespass and Misdemeanor, or not Guilty?

Mr. Reading, Not Guilty in Thought, Word or Deed.

L. C. Just. Not Guilty, is your Plea?

Mr. Reading. Yes, my Lord.

Cl. of Cr. Cryer, make Proclamation. You good men of this County of Middlesex summoned to appear here this day to try the Issue joyned between our Sovereign Lord the King, and Nathaniel Reading, answer to your Names, and save your Issues.

Then the Pannel was called over, and Proclamation for Information in usual Form was made.

Cl. of Cr. Mr. Reading, look to your Challenges. Will your Lordship please to have Sir John Cutler to be Fore-man?

L. C. Just. Yes.

Mr. Reading, My Lord, I have a very great Honour for this worthy person Sir John Cutler; he is in Commission of the Peace, I do therefore humbly desire he may be excused at this time.

L. C. Just. Mr. Reading, you cannot challenge him peremptorily in this Case, it not being for your Life; and therefore you must shew cause if you have any; he is not in this Commission at all: and for his being in Commission of the Peace, that signifies nothing, for we oftentimes in the Circuits take them off the Bench to be Jury-men; but if you can shew any cause of Challenge, it must be allowed you.

Mr. Reading.

Mr. Reading, My Lord, I look upon my self Indicted for Treason; (I desire God to give me Strength, and I am sure of your Lordships Patience,) and I look upon the Indictment which hath been read to me, and upon which I have been arraigned, to be expressly Treason; and I do humbly pray your Lordships Judgment in it, whether it be so or not: For, my Lord, (if your Lordship please) if it be so, as I understand my own Innocency, so your Lordship understands my Charge better than I do. And God knows I have neither strength of Body, nor presence of Mind to manage my own Defence; but my Happiness is, that I am alive at this day, and am to be Tryed here before so Honourable a Bench. My Lord, I have not had the advantage of any Counsel to assist me, nor the benefit of any Common Friend, no not my Wife to come to me. I have not been able to help my self through the great Indisposition which I have been under, reduced to it by that barbarous and illegal usage which I have had: For (my Lord) I hope I may say I am the first *English* man that in my Circumstances hath ever been used as I have been; and my hopes are, whatsoever becomes of me, (the Lords will be done,) I shall be the last that ever shall be so used. My Lord, upon the weakness of my own apprehension, I do take it, that 'tis as high a Treason, nay a greater Treason, and that in the words of the Indictment, then ever Mr. Coleman or any of the others that have been Executed; dyed for; or the Lords now in the *Tower* stand Charged with; and therefore my Lord I pray your direction in it if it is but a Misdemeanor, (for truly what the Crime is I know not,) but in construction of Law, admitting the Indictment true, the whole does contain in it the blackest Treason that ever Villain was Guilty of. If it is so in your Lordships Judgment, whatever should become of it now, I may be Indicted for it again; and should this Indictment be found upon me, I am as certainly in the Eye of the Law a dead man, as through the Mercy of God I am now alive: And (my Lord) if it be so, I desire your Lordships Judgment, whether I may not be allowed a peremptory Challenge.

Lord

L. C. Just. Mr. Reading, You speak in due time, for 'tis pertinent to the matter of peremptory Challenge, to consider whether this be an Indictment of Treason; for if it be, the Law does allow in favour of your Life a peremptory Challenge to such a Number; and I will tell you, your apprehensions have something in them: That the Fact as 'tis laid in the Indictment, might have been laid so as to have made it an Indictment of Treason; and if you are Guilty of this Fact, and not Indicted for Treason, but only for a Misdemeanor, 'tis a favour to you, and that of which you cannot take advantage or complain of. I'll now shew you that this Indictment is not an Indictment of Treason, nor can the Judgement of Treason be given upon you for it; and so thereby your Life is not in danger. First, here is not the word *Proditorie*, which is necessary in all Indictments of Treason: Next, you must observe that all Treasons are expressly particularized in the Statute of 25 Ed. 3. And nothing is Treason but what is contained in that Act, as *Compassing the Death of the King, Levying War against the King*, and other Facts mentioned in that Statute. Now if this Fact had been here laid as an Overt Act for the Evidencing of the Imagination of your heart in *Compassing the Death of the King*, and the destruction of the Realm, there it had been an Indictment of Treason: But being there is no Treason formally laid, nor the word (*Proditorie*) which is necessary in all Indictments of Treason: 'Tis only a Misdemeanor you stand Charged with, which I must tell you is a great ease and favour to you in such Circumstances as we are now; and if it be so, you must shew cause if you Challenge any Juror.

Mr. Reading. If I may (with your Lordships favour) I am very highly disposed for the taking of the least of favours that can be shew'd me, with the deepest acknowledgment that an Innocent man, and one in Distress can make: But (my Lord) among the greatest of Misfortunes, this I own as my Happiness, that I am now on my Tryal before your Lordship. But pray (my Lord) may not I (having this favour shew'd to me, and should it be only found a Misdemeanor) afterwards be Indicted for Treason: And pray (my Lord) does there want any one Circumstance of the formality of an Indictment for Treason in this against me, but that one of *Proditorie*?

Lord

L. C. Just. No, it is not laid that you did Compass the death of the King.

Mr. Reading, Then (with Your Lordships pardon,) I do not understand it; for the Indictment does set forth: *That Coleman and others did Conspire the Death of the King, Levying War, the Altering of Religion, and Subversion of the Government; for which they justly suffered Death.* And further, as to the several Lords in the Indictment mentioned, they are Accused for the same Treason; And justly, and according to Law sent to the Tower, to Answer what they stand justly impeached of by the Commons: And it sets forth further, that I, *præmissa prædicta satis sciens*, did so and so: Were there no other Expression, that, my Lord, is expressly Treason, or no doubt Misprision of Treason; for, my Lord, it does Charge me that I am *satis sciens* particularly, sufficiently well apprised of those Treasons they were Executed for, these Accused. And that I did not this out of the weakness of my own Apprehension, but falsely, advisedly and maliciously. My Happiness is, I shall have your great Judgments to determine this matter for me.

L. C. Just. Mr. Reading, You exercise great Elocution and Eloquence; but if I do apprehend you aright what you say, is this: That the Indictment sets forth that you *satis Sciens* of those Treasons did so and so, which will amount to a Misprision of Treason. I must tell you there is a difference between the knowledge of a Treason that is secret; for the concealing of that, and endeavouring to stifle the Evidence, is Misprision of Treason, but the knowing of a Treason that is revealed and discovered, is knowing no more then all the World knows; and not laid as a fault; but to aggravate the fault afterwards charged. This discourse is nothing to the matter; if you would have our Opinion whether you may afterwards be questioned for Treason, 'tis that we are not to give you; answer the Indictment as now it is: You have favour enough that it is laid this way, and not the other. An Indictment of Treason or Misprision must not be laid so as that the Crime must be collected out of the matter of Fact only, but it must be formally laid. How you shall be Prosecuted hereafter, must depend upon the

D

Justice of the Kingdom: We sit here now to determine upon what matter lyes before us, and so cannot grant you a Peremptory Challenge in this Case, which is only allowed in matters Capital in favour of Life.

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I do desire to know whether this be Treason or no, *That being devilishly affected to the King my Supreme and Natural Lord, and intending to Levy War in the Kingdom, and to change the Government, and to alter the Religion, and subvert the Peace of England;* whether that be not Treason?

Lord Ch. Just. Mr. Reading; We will answer none of those Questions: But this I will say to you, no Judgment of Treason can be given upon you upon this Indictment; and though these Acts (if formally laid) might have been Treason; yet it not being so, we must proceed as it lyes before us: And therefore if you have any particular Cause to Challenge Sir John Cutler shew it, and we will hear you.

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I have this Cause, I have been but a little time Acquainted with this worthy Gentleman; but, my Lord, I have seen him in Company with Mr. Bedford my Accuser, I know there is not a Common Intimacy and Friendship between them; I am very certain, my Lord, that Sir John hath too much Honour to do me wrong; but I do humbly desire that he may have his ease, and be excused at this time; Not that I do distrust his Justice, but for the Reasons I have humbly offered.

Lord Ch. Just. Look you, Mr. Reading, your Accusers are Witnesses for the King, and are neither to gain nor loose by your Tryal; and therefore cannot be presumed to make any party for your Conviction. And do you Challenge a Jurymen because he is supposed to know something of the matter? for that reason the Juries are called from the Neighbourhood, because they should not be wholly strangers to the Fact. If you can shew that he hath already given his Verdict by his Discourse, and that you are already condemned in his Opinion, that may be some cause of Challenge; but that he hath Discoursed with Neighbours as others do, it may be he believes it, and may be
does

does not believe it, he is now to give his Verdict upon what he hears upon Oath.

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I was very glad to see Sir John Cutler here, for I did intend to have his Evidence for me.

Lord Ch. Just. That you may have though he be Sworn.

Then the Jury were sworn, and their Names were as followeth, (viz.)

<i>Sir John Cutler,</i>	<i>Thomas Casse Esq;</i>
<i>Joshua Galliard Esq;</i>	<i>Rainsford Waterhouse Esq;</i>
<i>Edward Wilford Esq;</i>	<i>Matthew Bateman Esq;</i>
<i>Thomas Henslow Esq;</i>	<i>Walter Moyle Esq;</i>
<i>Thomas Earsby Esq;</i>	<i>Richard Pagett &</i>
<i>John Serle Esq;</i>	<i>John Haynes Esq;</i>

Lord Ch. Just. If Sir John Cutler desires Pen, Ink and Paper, or any other Convenience, let him have it.

Cl. of Cr. Gentlemen of the Jury hearken to the Indictment. He stands Indicted by the Name of *Nathaniel Reading*.

Lord Ch. Just. You need not open the Indictment, let the Council do that.

Then Edward Ward Esq; being of Council for the King in this Cause, opened the Indictment.

Mr. Ward. May it please your Lordship, and you Gentlemen of this Jury, *Nathaniel Reading Esq;* stands Indicted for this Offence: That whereas *Edward Coleman*, *William Ireland*, and *John Grove*, and other unknown persons, (Traitors against our Sovereign Lord the King,) the 24th. day of April in the 30th. Year of the King, did Traiterously contrive the Kings Death, the Subversion of the Government of the Kingdom, and the Religion in the same Kingdom by Law established, to alter and change to the Superstition of the Romish Church; for which Treasons they have been in due manner Attainted and Executed: And it further lays, that whereas *William Earl of Powis*, *William Lord Viscount Stafford*, *John Lord*

Lord *Bellasis*, Henry Lord *Arundel of Warder*, William Lord *Petre*, and Sir Henry *Tichbourn* Baronet, were the 30th. of November last in a lawful manner Accused of those Treasons, and for them committed to the *Tower*; and thereof the said Lords were and stand Impeached by the Commons in Parliament. The said Mr. *Reading* being well knowing of these things, and being Devillishly affected to the King his Supream and Natural Lord; and devising to disturb the Peace of the Kingdom, and the Government and Religion thereof rightly established, to change and alter the State of the Kingdom well instituted; to subvert, and to obstruct and stifle the discovery of these Treasons, and as much as in him lay to shift off and retard the course of Law and Prosecution of Justice against the said Lord *Powls*, Lord *Stafford*, Lord *Petre* and Sir Henry *Tichbourn*; the said Mr. *Reading* the 29th. of March last past, at *St. Margarets Westminster*, on the part of these three last mention'd Lords, and Sir Henry *Tichbourn*; did falsely, corruptly, advisedly, and against his Allegiance, unlawfully solicit, suborn and endeavour to perswade one Mr. *William Bedloe* (who before had given Information of these Treasons against the said persons, and whom Mr. *Reading* knew so to have done) to lessen, stifle, and omit to give in Evidence the full Truth according to his knowledge of the said Treasons against the said three Lords, and Sir Henry *Tichborn* upon their Tryal to be had, and to give such Evidence as he the said Mr. *Reading* should direct, and to that purpose falsely, corruptly, advisedly, and against the duty of his Allegiance, unlawfully did give to Mr. *Bedloe* 56 Guineys, and promised him that within a certain time (by the said *Reading* proposed) he should have and receive divers other great sums of Money and rewards for lessening, stifling and omitting to give in Evidence the full Truth according to his knowledge of those Treasons against the said three Lords, and Sir Henry *Tichbourn*; and for giving such Evidence as he should direct: And this is laid to be to the hindrance and suppression of Justice, in manifest contempt of the Laws of this Realm, to the evil example of others in the like case offending, and against the Peace of our Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity. To this Indictment Mr. *Reading* hath pleaded not Guilty. If we prove the Offences aforesaid against him, we doubt not but you will find him Guilty.

Sir

Sir Creswel Levins, one of the King's Learned Council in
the Law, thus opened the Charge.

May it please your Lordships, and you Gentlemen of the Jury, I am of Council for the King in this Case: Gentlemen, This Indictment is not an Indictment of High-Treason, nor of Misprision of Treason; and truly the Gentleman at the Bar hath something wondred at the King's Lenity to him; the Fact in the Indictment does indeed sound of another nature, than what it bears the name of; it does in this Indictment carry the most moderate Character that the Fact will bear; It is only an Indictment of Trespas and Misdemeanor; but 'tis a very high Misdemeanor, 'Tis to stifle the King's Evidence, and that not in an ordinary Case, but where it is attended with the greatest aggravations that can be in any Case whatsoever. If a man should endeavour to stifle the Evidence in an Action betwixt Party and Party in the Courts of *Westminster-Hall*, for a business of about 40 s, those Courts of Justice would find a ready way to punish him. This is a Crime of another Nature, for it is set forth in the Indictment, That *Coleman, Ireland, and Grove* had a Traiterous Design in hand, for the which they were Executed, that is, The Plot; and when I have said that, I have said all, that implies all, you all know what was thereby designed. 'Tis set forth in the Indictment, That such Lords, and Sir *Henry Tichborne* were privy to the Plot and accused for it, and to prevent the Evidence to be given against these Lords, three of them (for the Bargain was only made for three; viz. My Lord *Stafford*, my Lord *Powis*, and my Lord *Petre*, the rest were out of the Bargain, and had not it seems found out the way of Commerce now used by these Persons) was this Gentleman Mr. *Reading's* Business. It was to diminish and lessen the Evidence that was to be given against them, who were charged and accused to be as highly Guilty of the Plot as any that were Executed for it. And when I have told you this, you will surely conclude 'tis an high Offence, and an high Misdemeanor: for if the Life of the King, if the Law of the Land, if the Religion established, if the settled Government be valuable; if your own Lives, your own Liberties, and your own Fortunes have any consideration with you, this is a very high Misdemeanor; for you must

look upon these as all at Stake: This Plot, as it was lay'd, did reach to all; so that an Endeavour to conceal the Evidence that should Discover and thereby prevent the Execution of so Horrid a Conspiracy, is a very hainous Misdemeanor; and you will easily believe, That the Gentleman at the Bar, the Prisoner whom you are to try, had reason to doubt within himself, why it should be called so small an Offence as an high Misdemeanor: But I will not, I need not aggravate this Offence, and the rather because the Gentleman that stands accused for it, is of a Profession (for which I am sorry) which obliges him to know and understand all the aggravations of his own Crime. I will not open the Evidence, nor tell you what the Witnesses will say, I had rather you should have it from themselves; but if I am rightly informed, you will have the matter fully proved; and therefore we will call the Witnesses, and let them tell you what it is they have to say.

Mr. Ward. There are some things laid in this Indictment that are to be previously proved in Order to the charging of the Prisoner, as the Execution of Coleman, and the rest; and the Impeachment of the Lords. If Mr. Reading stands upon it we have those here that will prove it.

L. C. J. Mr. Reading, Those Publick passages that are laid in the Preamble of the Indictment, Do you insist they should be proved first?

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I am very willing to save your Lordship's time.

L. C. J. Do you admit that Coleman and Ireland, &c. were Executed for Treason?

Mr. Reading. Yes, My Lord, and very justly.

L. C. J. Do you admit that the Lords in the Tower are accused and impeached in Parliament for this Plot?

Mr. Reading. Yes, My Lord, I do.

L. C. J. Then you ease them of the reading those Records.

Mr. Reading. And My Lord, I do further say, I do verily believe there never was a greater Plot lay'd in Hell than this. I have abhor'd it in my Thoughts, and have not only endeavoured to encourage the Discovery, but always gave it as my Counsel, that nothing that was true should be left out in the Evidence. And I do, and will save your Lordship's time as much as I can.

Sir

Sir Cr. Levins. Then if your Lordship please, we will call our Witnesses and prove the Fact, and if there be any thing that Mr. Reading doubts of, we will prove it afterwards? Swear Mr. Bedloe. Which was done.

Mr. Ward. Mr. Bedloe, I shall only ask you the general Question. Will you be pleased to tell my Lords, and the Jury what you know of this Business? Tell the whole Story what Discourse and Bargainings there have been between you and Mr. Reading, for the diminishing and lessening of your Evidence.

Mr. Bedloe. My Lord, Mr. Reading was altogether a Stranger to me, till Sir Trevor Williams brought me acquainted with him; he was always very just to me in whatsoever he did for me, and wherein he was employed by me. I found him very honest in reference to my own Concerns. And though Mr. Reading will bring a great many People perhaps that he hath pers'd me to Discover the whole of the Plot; I do confess he did it in a very high measure in all publick Company; and that I would not be baulk'd in any point: And for the Discovery, and Convicting and Executing of those that had dyed about this Plot, he never deny'd but they suffered justly and lawfully enough: But in private Counsels where we have been together, he hath spoken to me to be cautious. Indeed he hath never endeavoured to have me stifle the whole Plot, but only for some particular People that he Solicited for; not but that he believed them Guilty, as well as the rest; but he desired me that I would not be so hot against them. And after he had made me Easie (that was his word that he himself used) he would have had me made Mr. Dugdale Easie too. At several times when we have been together, his very Expressions have been to me, Mr. Bedloe, Though there hath been so Damn'd a Design on foot, and so terrible a one, yet it is not for your Safety nor Credit to run at the whole Herd of Men: for I was this Day, or Yesterday, he said, with my Lord Chief Justice, and he told me, That at this rate that Mr. Bedloe accuses men, none are safe; for he runs at the whole Herd, and seemed to me to intimate that my Lord Chief Justice was not pleased with my Forwardness. And he told me likewise, You gain your point with the Parliament, and with the King, and with the Kingdom, if some suffer, as I believe you can do it, and not run at the
the

the whole Herd, and 'tis an indifferent thing to you, so you make the Parliament your Friend by proving there is a Plot, and the King your friend in not charging all these Lords, and you'll make all the Lords your friends by your kindness to them. You shall take my Instructions, I will never advise you any thing that is ill, but I'll tell you how far you shall proceed. If you can fix any thing for them, you shall be sure to be well gratified.

L. C. J. Did he name any Lords to you ?

Mr. Bedloe. This was the beginning of the discourse, *my Lord*, and I answered him, Mr. Reading, This is a very nice Point, and I know them to be Guilty of all the things I charge them with, and I can prove it. If your advice be so, I'll consider of it. I think it was after the Prorogation of the last Parliament, and then my encouragement for discovery was not so great. But, said I, if any of them deny it to you that they are Guilty, then they must expect no Kindness from me at all, for I will swear all that I can against them; But if they acknowledg that I do them a piece of Service in not swearing too severely against them, then I will be ready to take your Advice and Instructions. He told me many times, that Sir Henry Tichborne did think he had seen, me in *Paris*, but he did not use this expression to me, That I charged him with bringing Commissions over from *Rome*. I answered again, you may tell Sir Henry Tichborne, if he denies any thing of the Fact that I have sworn against him, he does me and himself a great injury. And to take him off as an Innocent Man, I cannot do it, I will never do it. But upon acknowledgment I may do them some kindness. So likewise my Lord Powis and Caryll. The Gentlemen that he most Solicited for, were my Lord Powis, my Lord Petre, my Lord Stafford, Sir Henry Tichborne, Mr. Roper, Mr. Caryll, and one Mr. Corker a Jesuit. And likewise he made me Easie upon that day, that Mr. Whitebread and Mr. Fenwick were upon their Tryal; for I have enough against them, because I could be no stranger to *Whitebread* and *Fenwick*, two such considerable men, being so much concerned as I was in their Affairs. It was impossible I should be so much a stranger to them as I said I was, but it was because Mr. Reading had then made me Easie, and I intended to carry on the Intrigue with him till it could be handsomely

hansomely discovered. But my Lord Chief Justice asked me, whether that was all I could say? and I told him, my Lord, I have something more to say when time, and place require it, and when I can be safe in telling it; that is, when I had found out all that Mr. *Reading* intended to do, how far he would go, and then I thought it would be a proper time when I could make out some such information as I now do; but I would not stifle that Treaty that was between him and me about the Lords in the *Tower*, which I knew was of greater Consequence than two old Priests. After the dissolution of the Parliament, he told me, We must see other times, and other changes, and that the Lords did not think themselves in so much danger as when the Parliament was Sitting. But at several places, the *Palsgrave-head Tavern* and others, we have had discourse to the like effect. He would very frequently come to me and talk with me about it. Now I asked Counsel of no Man, for I have no need of it in my matter; 'tis not matter of Law, but matter of Fact that I am to make out, therefore I had no need of his advise, but he would be at my Bed side very often in a Morning, and before I was dressed, and then we used to discourse together about this business, and the manner and form how it should be done, and how well I should be rewarded if I got off those Lords, that is my Lord *Petre*, my Lord *Powis*, and my Lord *Stafford*, and Sir *Henry Tichborne*, these were the four that made the promises; but Mr. *Reading* solicited for the other Lords too; they did promise a noble Reward, but I could never settle or fix what it should be, but I should have acknowledgments both in Money & Estate from the Lords for shortning the Evidence, and bringing them off from the charge of *High Treason*. We had several Consultations about this the *Monday* that my Lord *Danby* was sent for by the Black Rod, Mr. *Reading* came to me in the Speaker's Chamber, and told me, Mr. *Bedloe*, here is a great turn, my Lord Treasurer is sent for by the Black rod, and things are like to go quite another way. Well said I, when were you with the Lords in the *Tower*? Saith he, I have not been there these two or three days, but said he, I intend to go to morrow, and then I'll bring you word what they say. And the next day, or the day following, he came to me and told me, That the Lords did think, That I was in a great measure capable of serving them now; And they would have

an account what I could say against them, that so they might view it and correct it. Accordingly he did go, and appointed to meet me the 28th of *March*. I omit several other times that we had Consultations, and now come homeward to the Business. I had then a Command from the Lords to inspect the Papers of the *Spanish* Ambassador's at *Weld-House*, and I could not meet Mr. *Reading* according to promise, and I think the other Witnesses will give you Reasons better than I. This appointment was on *Friday* Night; on *Saturday* Morning, he having miss'd of me the Night before, came to my Lodging, where I had placed Mr. *Speke* and my Man ready against he came. None of all these Conferences did I conceal, but revealed them to some of the Members of the Privy Council, to the Prince, and to my Lord of *Effex*; As soon as ever I had discoursed with Mr. *Reading* about this matter, I did write it in the very words, as near as I could, and gave it to the Prince, and my Lord of *Effex*, and I think your Lordships are very well satisfy'd that the Prince and my Lord knew it. And I told it to several others, as Counsellor *Smith*, Mr. *Kirby*, and several others, who I was certain would be true to the Secret, fearing that Mr. *Reading* had lay'd a Trap to catch me with, and therefore I was very Cautious, that no particular of the Conference should be unknown to them. Indeed, My Lord, I was very sorry to see Mr. *Reading* should do so, for I had a very great respect for him; and he did use to give me publick advice in general for the Discovery of the Plot, only for some particular people he did solicit me that I would be a little Easie, those he did solicit for. Upon the 29th of *March*, which was *Saturday* Morning, when he came into the Room, he asked me, Is there no body here that can over-hear us? I told him no, there was not. Now I had planted that Gentleman, Mr. *Speke*, behind my Hangings, and made an hollow place in my Bed, and therein lay'd my Man, and covered him with the Rug so smooth, that it did appear as if it were but newly made, and he could not perceive there was any body there; he would have spoke to me in the Dining-Room, but I excused it, telling him, That Madam *Greves*, who lay in the next Room, had over-heard several Discourses that I had with some persons there, and therefore it would not be safe, but he had better go into my Chamber, (not that she could hear through the Wall,

Wall, but it was to bring him into my Chamber;) He commended my caution, and came in with me thither; and his first word, as I said, was, Is there no body that can over-hear? No, said I, 'tis my Concern to look to that, that all be private; But, said I, what say the Lords in the *Tower*? What says my Lord *Stafford*, what do they intend to do? I must know speedily, for I am to give in my Information to the Secret Committee of what I can say against them this night. And I can stay no longer but must have their final Answer, that I may know what to say when I come to the Secret Committee. Saith he, I will go and get their final Answer, but pray put it off till *Wednesday* if you can. Said I, I cannot do that, put it off so long, but I'll do what I can to put it off till *Monday*. Well, said he, on *Monday* you shall be sure to hear from me then, and I will have all things ready as to what you have to say, and you shall have it from me. Accordingly I did stay till *Monday*, but the Committee of Secresy knew it all this time, and when I met him on *Monday*, I had ordered the Witnesses that were by to overhear us, to be present at the delivery of the Paper; accordingly they were there, and Mr. *Reading* did bring it in his own hand writing.

Mr. *Reading*. What Room was it you were in, pray Sir?

Mr. *Bedloe*. In the Painted Chamber. And as he gave me the Paper, pretending to put my hand in my Pocket, I clapp'd it with my hand privately behind me thus, and Mr. *Speke* took it out of my hand, and he and my Man went into my Lord *Privy Seal's* Chamber, and there they read it, and had it three hours before ever I saw it. Well, said I, what will the Lords do? Why, saith he, Tho' I have not a full Answer as to what they will do, yet you may expect a noble Retward; And I have order to draw up blank Deeds.

Mr. *Reading*. Who did you give that Paper to, Sir?

Mr. *Bedloe*. To Mr. *Speke*, the rest will justify it, 'tis your own Hand writing. But saith he, I have order to draw blank Deeds to be signed in 10 days after their Discharge. And you may be sure that they shall be Signed. Mr. *Reading*, said I, this is but a verbal promise, and they may perhaps hereafter charge me for all my bringing them off, and do me a great deal of injury. That cannot be, saith he, my Soul and my Life for it, I have taken their Words, and if there be any Faith, Honour and Conscience in Men, it shall be done. I dare answer for

them. And Mr. *Bedloe*, your safety doth most consist in it; for as they must never be false with you, so they must never be at Enmity with you; for at last if you charge them with corrupting of you, you will be able to ruine them, and it will not look ill upon you, so much as upon them. But take my word for it, you shall have a noble and worthy acknowledgment. I have Authority to draw Blank Deeds both for Summes and Estates, which they will settle upon you, and likewise a speedy supply of Money as soon as they can get it in; for my Lord *Stafford* said, He is now cutting down Wood and selling it, and when he hath raised the Money, you shall have it; but he protests at present he hath not now Money to defray the Charges of his Family; but I have order at any time to give you what you need for present occasions; and indeed accordingly I have had a great deal of Money from him, several Guineys. I had all I asked for, and many times Gold I did not ask for, upon what terms, other Witnesses will prove better than I hereafter. When we had done, said he, Let me see what Papers you have, the Copy of what you have accused the Queen about and the Lords, that I may carry them to the Lords and have their Answer. Said I, They are at my Mother's. I must needs have them, said he. So that I might give the Witnesses leave to come out, I went with him to my Mother's Lodgings and pretended to look for them, but found them not; for none but the Secret Committee knows what is in them. But when I had look'd over my Papers, said I, My Brother perhaps hath got them away with him, I'll go back to my Lodgings and see. Oh said he, you should make sure of such Copies as you have, in some Friends hands, to secure them as well as the Original. I told him, I should be sure of them at Night; so he was satisfied: tho I never intended he should have them, because there was business of so great Consequence in them. When we came back again, we found Mr. *Speke*, and my Man in the Chamber writing. I asked Mr. *Speke* how long they had been there? he told me, as soon as I went out. Then said I to Mr. *Speake*, Pray withdraw, for now I am to have Mr. *Reading's* Instructions; if you'll go before by Water, I'll meet you at *Westminster* by and by. Then I lock'd up the Street door and came back to Mr. *Reading*, and then to work we fell to write out those things that he and I did conclude upon.

Mr. *Reading*.

Mr. *Reading*. You say that you and I were then alone, and you man gone away.

Mr. *Bedloe*. I said, that then you and I concluded upon what I should say, and what I should pitch upon they were to correct, according to what they thought would most conduce to their own safety. And when there were any words, that seemed to urge any thing home upon them, than he would tell me what was Law, and that perhaps would reach them, and then altered it. And the *Munday* after brought a Copy to me of his own hand writing, far from the words that were set down in the Paper that he and I concluded of together, and delivered it to me privately, and I delivered it to this Gentleman, carrying it behind me thus, and he came after me, and took it from me.

Sir *Christopher Levins*. Mr. *Bedloe*, this, you say, was for the shortening of the Evidence, how was it to be shortened.

Mr. *Bedloe*. To take off the whole charge of guilt, that I had sworn against them.

Sir *Christ. Levins*. Did that, which you agreed upon to shorten, take off from the Treason?

Mr. *Bedloe*. That which the Witnesses had in writing did take off the charge of Treason wholly.

Sir *Christ. Levins*. Was it less than the information you had given in against them?

Mr. *Bedloe*. I told him, that it was not delivered into the Secret Committee, but indeed I had a great while before—

L *Ch. Just.* I'll tell you what I apprehend he did say; if I mistake he will set it right. He saith, when he came back with Mr. *Reading*, he found Mr. *Speke* and his Man in the Chamber together, he asked Mr. *Speke* how long he had been there, and how chanced he was up so soon, Mr. *Speke* said to him, I have been here ever since you went away. That, upon Mr. *Bedlo's* desire, he went away before him to *Westminster*, and they went together to consult, and great care was used, that they might not be hindered or surprized. Then Mr. *Bedloe* was to pen his Testimony, and it was to be carried to the Lords in the Tower, and

they were to consider how to have it minced, that they might be out of danger. And *Mr. Reading* understanding the Law, when ever *Mr. Bedloe* spoke plain, or dictated any thing that would come home to them, would tell him of it, and that *Mr. Bedloe* might correct and mitigate it himself. I understand you so, *Mr. Bedloe*.

Mr. Bedloe. Yes, my Lord, it was so. And that Paper, which he brought me back, was ten times shorter than that he had of mine, which was forty times shorter, than what I had given in to the Secret Committee.

Mr. Ward. *Mr. Bedloe* hath fully proved the discourse and bargain between him and *Mr. Reading* for the lessening of his Evidence.

Mr. Bedloe. All *Mr. Readings* words were, That I would so shorten and lessen the Charge against them, that they might come off.

L. Ch. Just. *Mr. Reading*. if you have a mind to it, you have liberty to ask him any questions.

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I humbly desire I may do it, when the Evidence for the King is all given.

L. Ch. Just. It is most proper to do it now.

Mr. Reading. With your Lordships favour, I have this reason for it, I do desire that the Witnesses may be examined apart.

Mr. Just. Wild. *Mr. Bedloe*, pray let me ask you one question. I am upon the Indictment, for the Jury is charged upon that, and we must judge upon that, was the agreement between you and him, that you should swear what he should direct you?

Mr. Bedloe. It was to what he, and the Lords would direct.

Mr. Just. Wild. Did the Lords correct your Paper?

Mr. Bedloe. As he said they had done it.

Mr. Just. Wild. Did he acknowledge it?

Mr. Bedloe. Yes, he did.

L. Ch. Just. *Mr. Bedloe*, I don't understand, that you were to have any conference with the Lords, but you were to be shy of that, least it should be discovered, but what conference you were to have was with *Mr. Reading*.

Mr. Bedloe. Yes, my Lord, and he was to give me an account

account vvhat they vvould have me say.

Mr. *Just. Jones*. Shevv him the Paper, I suppose, he vvill ovvn his ovvn hand.

L. *Cb. Just.* Is that your hand, Sir?

Mr. *Reading*. My Lord, this is my hand, and this is that Paper, that I did deliver to Mr. *Bedloe* before Mr. *Speke* in the Painted Chamber.

Mr. *Ward*. We desire it may be read, if your Lordship think fit.

Mr. *Just. Atkins*. Methinks it should be material to read the Paper that he gave to *Reading* first.

L. *Cb. Just.* Have you it here Mr. *Bedloe*?

Mr. *Bedloe*. No, he carried that Paper to the Lords, and brought me this again.

L. *Cb. Just.* But had you never that other Paper again?

Mr. *Bedloe*. No, I had not.

L. *Cb. Just.* Did you ever take a Copy of it?

Mr. *Bedloe*. No, I did not. But this is that corrected Paper that I was to give into the secret Committee, and corrected by the Lords.

Sir *Christ. Levins*. We do prove it in fact, that he had before given further Evidence, and by this agreement he did contract to give less.

L. *Cb. Just.* Mr. *Reading*, what do you say to Mr. *Bedloe*?

Mr. *Reading*. My Lord, if I have your Lordships direction that I may not examine my Witness apart, I'll go one.

L. *Cb. Just.* But what say you to the Paper?

Mr. *Reading*. I do own the Paper that was shewn to me, is my hand, and that I delivered it to Mr. *Bedloe*.

L. *Cb. Just.* Then it must be read.

Sir *Christ. Levins*. My Lord, we don't desire it should be read, for we cannot shew the former Paper that did contain more, and therefore what will the reading of the latter Paper which contains less signifie?

L. *Cb. Just.* If you do not desire to have it read we won't read it.

Sir *Chr. Levins*. Mr. *Bedloe's* evidence is, that there was a Paper much more large than this, and yet both those short of the Information he had given in, now what will the reading of the one signifie without the other?

L. Ch. Just. Do you consent to the reading of it?

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I would save your time, and make it plain.

L. Ch. Just. *Mr. Reading,* You must not come to make your fence yet, till the Kings evidence is over.

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I do it to open his evidence; and for your Information. My Lord, *Mr. Bedloe* charges me, that I did write in his Chamber, when his man and *Mr. Speke* were gone, a Paper that vvas much larger than the Paper your Lordships have before you; he does say, that he did desire me to go with that to the Lords, and that they did correct it in several places, and being so corrected, I did bring him this Paper back, and delivered it to him in the Painted Chamber before *Mr. Speke*. My Lord, I do pray your Lordships favour in it, when I had the Kings directions for giving in to the Secret Committee what Information I had to give, I did deliver it into the Chamber, where were *Mr. Sacheverel* and others, that very Paper, which was written at his Chamber. My Lord, I have sent to him several times, that he would deliver that to me in order to my own justification at my Tryal. I did desire likewise, that some other Papers which I did receive from *Mr. Bedloe* under his own hand, and which would be very material to my defence, might be brought to me, but have not had the favour of an answer from *Mr. Sacheverel* to this very hour. I do humbly desire, that he may be sent to for the delivery of them.

L. Ch. J. I do not know how we can send for them, if the Committee will not deliver them.

Mr. Reading. Will your Lordship give me leave to send to him?

L. Ch. Just. But not by our direction, to bring them as by our command.

Mr. Reading. No, my Lord, but by my own int'reary.

L. Ch. Just. Do what you will as from your self. *Mr. Reading,* your Wife was vvith me yesterday, and said you could not get *Subpena's* for your Witnesses, and I sent for the Clerk about it, and he told me there never vvas any *Subpena's* denied you, but you might have had them at any time. But vvhat say you to this Paper, you of the Kings Counsel.

Sir Chr. Levins. My Lord, we do not desire to have it read without the other.

L. C. J.

Chief Justice. Look you here, this Plot must be mob
for we would see whether there was a Paper under your hand
expressing what Evidence Mr. Bealoe was to give in this mat-
ter, and whether you did one way or other put any thing in
Writing which he should swear to in his Evidence. As for
the other matter of tampering, we shall hear from others con-
cerning it; but let us have this read, and for comparing it
with the other Paper, to shew the Testimony is left in this state
in the other, but as an Evidence of the fact in it itself, we
will expect a good Account from you Mr. Reading, what you
had said to produce him in his Evidence in writing, therefore
pray read the Paper.

Then the Paper was read in these verbal

Lord Stafford. I brought

On discovery of the Plot, to me, I asked *Harcourt* and *le Phare* how things were to be managed, they told me that his Lordship was to be Treasurer, and he and *Ireland* and *Coleman* had money to defray all Charges; I then said, I never heard that his Lordship was engaged before, they said he had not been long concerned, nor was he acquainted with the affair much, but that the money which was lodged with him was to be disposed of by him for the use of the Church and the Catholicks, and they had bound his Lordship up by Sacraments not to discover what the money lodged with him was to do till the time of using it, and then his Lordship should know what great Trust he had upon him for them, and till things were ripe he was not to be acquainted with the depth of the Plot, for they knew he would never consent to the Kings Death till it was

done. His Lordship always promised to be ready to serve the Church with his life and fortune.

Lord Powis.

That the Lady Abbess of *Pambois* told me, that his Lordship had sent his Daughters over to be Educated in the Monastery, but that his Lordships Lady had declared to her by Letter, that she meant them as Pledges according to her promise, to assure her that her Lord was real to carry on what he had promised concerning the Introducing the Roman Catholick Religion into *England*. I brought over a Letter from the Monks in *Paris*, directed to his Lordship, with several other letters, to other Popish Gentlemen, attending to the Death of the King, and subverting of the Government; but what was in that letter to his Lordship I know not, for that I did not open it, as I had done the others, it being directed to a Peer, but I believed it might be to the same Effect, the Monks having informed me so at the delivering them to me: several other letters to the same effect (as the Priests told me) I saw in the Priests hands, directed to his Lordship; but I never did read any of them, nor can I say that his Lordship ever received any of them; but I saw them put into the Post-house to send forwards, and I never saw his Lordship at any Consultation, neither did I ever hear his Lordship named at any Consultation where the killing of the King was mentioned or debated of. But I verily believe that his

Lord-

Lordship was acquainted with the Design of introducing Popery, for that the Lady Abbess and the Priests have several times told me so, or to that Effect.

Lord Petre.

Mr. Tyrel a Priest, and Madam Thimbleby his Lordships Sister, told me that Mr. Thimbleby was gone to my Lord Petre's House to consult with him how to proceed in the managing of their business. Mr. Thimbleby having received letters from beyond Sea in order to the introducing the Roman Catholick Religion into England, and that his Lordship would not in any sort be perswaded to bring it in by force, but rather by policy, and though his Lordship had truly engaged himself never to quit the Design, yet she was sure he would not do it by foul means. I told her at her Husbands House at Ernly, that where a Design was to be carried on for so general a Good, no particular way was to be pitched upon, but any thing, and all means was to be used to bring it to pass, rather than lose the Design; To which she replied, that she believed and approved the same, but that she well knew his Lordships mind, that he would never agree to do it by force; but as he would not hinder it, should it go on by force, so he would further it by any other means whatsoever.

Dr. Chappin

L. Chief Just. Here is an Evidence indeed, but so signed that it would have signified nothing as to the Charge against them.

Mr. Bedloe. In the Information that I gave into the Secret Committee, there is ten Sheets of Paper in every Evidence against every Lord.

L. Chief Just. Now go to the other Witnesses.

Mr. Ward. Pray swear *Mr. Speke*. Which was done.

Mr. Ward. Come *Mr. Speke* declare your Evidence, and pray come over on this side.

L. Chief Just. I would have him stand on the other side, because *Mr. Reading* desires to examine them apart.

Mr. Speke. My Lords, and you Gentlemen of the Jury, I should have been very loth and unwilling to have made myself so publick as to have appeared here as a Witness against *Mr. Reading* the Prisoner at the Bar, upon any other account than this: but at such a time as this, and in such an Intrigue as this was, in which both the King and Kingdom was concerned, I thought my self bound both in Duty and Allegiance to appear in what I have done, and to testify the Truth of what I know for the Preservation and Defence of both; and therefore shall declare to you the Treaty that was in my hearing the 29th of March last between *Mr. Bedloe* and *Mr. Reading* now at the Bar, and I shall not for the World attest any thing but what I heard discoursed between them, but will relate it to you in their own Expressions as near as possibly I can remember; and as to the Matter and Substance of what I shall declare to you to be discoursed between them, I will and shall positively swear.

But before I acquaint you thereof, I must beg leave to tell you, that I knew almost dayly from *Mr. Bedloe* for some considerable time before, what was in the Treaty between him and *Mr. Reading*, and how they proceeded in this Affair, and therefore could the

the better charge my Memory with their Discourse, and with the Passages which passed between them; and Mr. *Bedloe* having himself told you that he acquainted two or three Persons likewise of very great Quality all along with this Treaty between him and Mr. *Reading*, and with Mr. *Reading's* constant and almost daily Consultation and Advice to him upon this Account, and with his large Promises to him from these Popish Lords and other Gentlemen accused and in Custody upon the account of this horrid Plot.

I shall not now tire your patience so much as to acquaint you with what I had from Mr. *Bedloe* from time to time, after Mr. *Reading* had been with him discoursing of this Affair; but I shall be as short as I can in coming close to the point, and therefore shall only acquaint you with the matter and substance of what I my self heard discoursed between Mr. *Reading* and Mr. *Bedloe* the 29th of *March* last.

The 28th. of *March* last, I met with Mr. *Bedloe* here at *Westminster*, who privately told me that Mr. *Reading* had appointed to be with him in the Evening about the old Affair, and therefore desired me to come to his Lodgings about seven a Clock, and there should be some private place found out for me advantageously to hear their Discourse: I went to Mr. *Bedloe's* Lodgings at *White-Hall* about the time he desired me to come; where I met with Mr. *Reading* who was then just come, and asking *Henry Wiggins* whether his Master was at home; who told him, that he was not; upon which Mr. *Reading* went away, and left word with this young Man that he would come again presently, and desired him to acquaint his Master with it as soon as he came home: I staid there with this young man a short time after Mr. *Reading* was gone, asking him whether he could tell where his Master was, who told me, he could not, but told me that there was some Company at the Kings Head Tavern at *Charing-Cross* which staid there for him, and that his Master would call

call there before he came home; upon which I immediately went to the Kings Head Tavern, and asked whether Mr. *Bedloe* was there; but I understood that there was some Company staying there, expecting to speak with Mr. *Bedloe*, but that he was not then come to them; upon which I went then to *Man's* Coffe-house, and staid there a while, but had ordered one of the Boyes of the Tavern to come and acquaint me as soon as Mr. *Bedloe* came; but finding that no one came from the Tavern, after some time I went thither again, and understood that he had not been there, and that the Company was gone which staid for him, and then I went back again to Mr. *Bedloes* Lodgings, where as soon as I came, this young man came out and told me, Mr. *Reading* was above and staid there to speak with his Master; on which I call'd him out to me, and told him, I was desired by his Master to come to be hid in some private place conveniently to hear the discourse between them, and therefore I contrived some way to get Mr. *Reading* out, that I might in the meantime convey my self into some private place, where I might be able to hear their Discourse; whereupon I ordered this young man (whilst I was walking without at some distance) to go up and tell Mr. *Reading* that there was one which came from the Kings Head Tavern at *Charing-Cross* to acquaint him that his Master was there with some Company, and to tell Mr. *Reading* that his Master would not be able to get away from them, if he did not go to him, whereupon this young man went immediately to Mr. *Reading*, and acquainted him with it according to my desire and direction, and then Mr. *Reading* went presently to the Tavern, and in the mean time I got up into the Bed-Chamber, and placed my self between the Hangings of the Bed and the wall, but Mr. *Reading* finding not Mr. *Bedloe* at the Tavern, went away home, and left word with this young man, that he would be with his Master by seven a Clock in the morning, and ordered him to acquaint his Master with it, that he might be up when he came, and as soon as *Henry Wiggins* returned back and acquainted me that Mr. *Reading* was gone home, and had left word with him that

that he would be with his Master by seven a Clock in the morning, I went home; but left word with this young man, that I would be with his Master by five or six a Clock in the morning, and desired him to acquaint his Master with it; I got up the next morning by five a Clock, and went immediately down to Mr. Bedloe's Lodgings.

Mr. Bedloe. Sir, you are pleased to say, that the twenty eighth of March you was told, that I would be there about seven of the Clock in the morning; and that you at first sent me there; and that the appointment failing, then you came the next morning, which was the twenty ninth.

L. Chief Just. I'll tell you how I apprehend it: The first appointment was the twenty eighth of March, which was on Friday, and then failing the other was the next morning, which was the twenty ninth.

Mr. Speke. As soon as I came to Mr. Bedloe's Lodgings, I caused the Sentinel to knock hard at the Door to raise them up; and in the mean time I went into Kings-street, expecting to have got into some Coffee-house or other for to drink a Dish of Coffee whilest they were rising; but it was so early that there was no Coffee-house open; upon which I was forced to return back again to Mr. Bedloe's Lodgings, and then this young man and maid were both got up; and did let me in, and I went up immediately to Mr. Bedloe, and raised him out of his Bed; and somewhat before seven a Clock we placed this young man upon the Bed, with the Rugg only on him, and prepared a place for me in the inside of the Bed, between the Hangings of the Bed and the Wall.

L. Chief Just. You say he was on the Bed, and you between the Bed and the Wall.

Mr. Speke. Yes, my Lord, between the Bed and the Wall I was, and he on the Bed, and as soon as ever I heard some body knock at the door (the door being locked by Mr. Bedloe's order to give me notice of his coming) I ran immediately into

my Station before he came up and presently after the door was open, I heard *Mr. Reading's* voice as he was coming up stairs, (which I know almost as well as his person) as he was speaking to the maid, and afterwards to *Mr. Bedloe*, who met him either in the Passage or at the Stair-head, and then they came both into the Bed-Chamber, (where, I believe, *Mr. Reading* little thought any body was) though he was so cautious as to ask where there was No Body there that could over-hear him; to which *Mr. Bedloe* reply'd, No, no, or some words to that effect. And then *Mr. Bedloe* began, and said to *Mr. Reading*, What sayes the Lords in the Tower now? and what sayes my Lord *Stafford*, as to the Estate in *Gloucestershire*? to which *Mr. Reading* then reply'd, and said, My Lord has faithfully promised me to settle that Estate upon you, and I have orders from my Lord to draw up a blank Deed in order to settle it on you, which Deed my Lord hath engaged to me to Sign and Seal in Ten days after he shall be discharged, you bringing him off from this Charge of *High Treason*, by shortning and contracting of your Evidence. And *Mr. Reading* said, my Lord *Powis*, my Lord *Petre's* and Sir *Henry Tichborne* have faithfully engaged and promised me, that they will every one of them give you a very large and noble Reward, which shall be suitable to the Service you shall do them by shortning and contracting of your Evidence against them, and in bringing them off likewise from this Charge of *High Treason*; to which *Mr. Bedloe* reply'd, and said, I will not rely upon their promises only, but do expect to have something under their Hands; to which *Mr. Reading* then reply'd, and said, they do not think it fit and convenient for them to do that as yet, but you may safely and securely take my word, as I have done theirs, they having all so faithfully promised me to perform all I have told you from them. And *Mr. Reading* finding that *Mr. Bedloe* doubted their performances, according to their words, did moreover use these very expressions, and said, *Ile Engage my life for it*; to which *Mr. Bedloe* then reply'd, I'll then take your Word, as you have done theirs. *Mr. Bedloe* said

to Mr. Reading, the Committee do press upon me to deliver in what I have to say against the Lords, and therefore I desire I may have their answer speedily, that I may know what they do intend to do, and what they do resolve upon, because I cannot well defer delivering in what I have to say against them any longer than this night, because I hear they come very speedily upon their Tryals: to which Mr. Reading then reply'd, that he was sure they could not be brought to their Tryals before Easter, telling Mr. Bedloe what the Parliament must do first and how they were to proceed in this Case. That they must come down to be arraigned, and after that, they must have time to give in their Answer, and after that, they must have time to prepare for their Tryals; and told him, that he might very well defer it till Wednesday; but Mr. Bedloe told him, that he could not defer it till Wednesday, but that he would put it off till Monday, and longer he could not, and then Mr. Reading said, that he would go presently to the Lords and acquaint them with what he said, and that he should not fail of having their answer by him on Monday, and that it should be ready for him to deliver it into the Committee that night, and after this Dialogue was over, between Mr. Reading and Mr. Bedloe, they went out into the Dining Room, and there Mr. Reading stay'd till Mr. Bedloe had quite dress'd himself, and afterwards went out both together, and stay'd away about half an hour, and when they returned, I and this Young-man were both together in the Dining Room, and then Mr. Bedloe spoke to me, as if I were but just come, asking me how long I had been there; I told him I just call'd on him as I was going to Westminster, or somewhat to that purpose, so that Mr. Reading might not any wayes suspect my being there before hand to hear the Dialogue which pass'd between them. Mr. Reading then call'd for a sheet of Paper, and pen and Ink, and went into the bed Chamber, speaking and desiring Mr. Bedloe to follow him; but after Mr. Reading

ing was gone into the bed chamber, Mr. Bedloe came to me, as I was standing by the Chimney, and whispered to me, that they were then just going to draw up what they had concluded on, that the Lords might see it and correct it, as they thought fit, and that they might send him on Munday in writing, what he should deliver into the Committee, to swear against them, which I saw delivered by Mr. Reading according to his promise to Mr. Bedloe on the Munday morning following in the Painted Chamber at Westminster, which Paper was writ by Mr. Readings own hand, Mr. Bedloe delivering it to me as soon as ever Mr. Reading left him, and then I and another Gentleman of quality went up immediately into the Room they call the Lords Privy Seal Room, where the Committee of Lords use to sit, and there Mr. Wharton and I read the Paper so delivered, being writ by Mr. Readings own hand.

Jury. Did you see Mr. Reading's face?

Mr. Speke. Ay, between the door and the wicket, but not in the Room. On the Munday morning following Mr. Bedloe desired that I would be here at Westminster before hand, and he would come thither. And he told me they were to correct the paper, and he was to bring it corrected, and said he, pray follow me, and see the paper delivered.

Mr. Reading. What day was that he desired you?

Mr. Speke. It was upon Saturday, the 20th. of March that I overheard what was said, and it was upon the Monday morning following that I met with Mr. Bedloe, and he bid me go to Westminster before. And I did so, and when we met at Westminster I went after Mr. Bedloe at a distance: And in the middle of the Court of requests he met with Mr. Reading, and they went together into the painted Chamber, and I followed them at a distance, my eye was very much upon them, but I saw Mr. Reading was very

cautious

cautious that I should not see the paper delivered; and indeed I was as shy as he, that he should notice, that I took notice of it; but I did direct my eye somewhat carefully that way, and at last, I saw the Paper delivered by Mr. Reading to Mr. Bealoe, and as Mr. Bealoe told you, I and another Gentleman of quality went avay to the Lord Privy Seals Lodgings, vvhvve opened the Paper, and savv vvhvhat vvas delivered to him, and read it, and this is all I have to say.

L. Ch. Just. shew him the Paper, is this that Paper, that you saw him deliver to Mr. Bealoe?

Sir Criswell Darnley. Look upon it Sir, it is that the Paper.

Mr. Speke. Yes, my Lord, certainly I take it so to be.

Mr. Justice Ashm. He hath owned it.

Lord Chief Justice. Mr. Reading, if you would ask this Gentleman any questions, this is your proper time.

Mr. Reading. I hope your Lordship will give me the favour to examine them apart.

Mr. Justice Wild. Mr. Reading, you do confess what Mr. Speke says to be true.

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I did deliver that very Paper to Mr. Bealoe in the Painted Chamber in the Court of Requests before Mr. Speke, and tis every word of it of my own hand writing.

Mr. Justice Dalbeni. Did you let Mr. Reading in the Room?

Mr. Speke. I did not see him, till he was between the Wicket and the door.

Mr.

Mr. Justice Wild. Mr. Speke let me ask you one question, Did not you know his voice?

Mr. Speke. I knew his voice almost as well as his Person.

Lord Chief Baron. You are sure it was he?

[**Mr. Speke.** Yes, I am very confident it was he.

Lord Chief Justice. And the discourse was, that he would have it put off till *Wednesday*, but Mr. *Bedloe* would not, but onely put it off till *Monday*, and then they agreed upon a Paper, an account of which Mr. *Reading* promised to give on the *Monday* following?

Mr. Speke. Yes, my Lord, it was so.

Lord Chief Justice. So that the Fact does answer the Discourse, for on the *Monday* following the Paper was delivered;

Mr. Ward. Here is onely one other Evidence, and that is Mr. *Bedloe's* Servant, that was put in the bed, as Mr. *Bedloe* tells you: Pray swear *Henry Wiggins*. Which was done.

Sir Creswell Levins. Come on, Young man, speak your knowledge of this matter.

Wiggins. My Lord, what I have to say, is this.

Lord Chief Justice. Speak out.

Wiggins. What I have to say, is onely what Mr. *Speke* hath said before, and indeed he hath been so very plain, and so exact in all particulars, that I need say but little, and therefore shall be very short:

My

My Lord, On Saturday the Twenty-Ninth of March last, Mr. Reading came to my Master's Lodging between Seven and Eight in the Morning. I was placed on the Bed, with the Rug only on me; and Mr. Speke was behind the Bed, between the Hangings of the Bed, and the Wall. As soon as Mr. Reading came into the Room, he asked my Master, If there were no Body there, that could hear them? My Master said, No. Then my Master asked, *What say the Lords in the Tower now? And what sayes my Lord Stafford, as to the Estate in Gloucester-shire?* Saith he, *My Lord hath promised faithfully to settle it upon you; and has given me order to draw up Blank-Deeds, which, in Ten Dayes after his Discharge, he will Signe.* And this was for the lessening the Evidence. I think, those were the Words. And just then the Rug troubling me that I could not Hear well, I put it off my Head; And, my Lord, I saw Mr. Reading stand by my Master in the Chamber. Saith he; *My Lord Powis, my Lord Petre, and Sir Henry Tichborne, have all promised you a suitable Reward, to the good Service you shall do them, in bringing them off from their Charge.* Saith my Master; *I don't think fit to relye upon their Promises only; but do expect something under their Hands.* No, said he, they don't think it convenient, for them to do that as yet; but you may safely take my Word, as well as I have done theirs: And I will Engage my Life for it. (Which were the Words Mr. Reading used. Saith my Master; The Committee do press upon me, to give in my Evidence, and I cannot defer it any longer than this Night. Saith Mr. Reading; They cannot come to their Tryal till Easter; because such and such things are to be done, as Mr. Speke have told you, before they can come to their Tryals, which cannot be done till then: And you may very well defer it till Wednesday. No (said my Master) I cannot; but I will do what I can, to defer it till Monday. Saith Mr. Reading; I will then go to the Lords, and acquaint them with

what you say; and bring you an Answer from them, on Monday-Morning.

And that Day, when he came to the *Painted-Chamber*, I saw him deliver that Paper to my Master; and my Master carrying it behind him: And I saw Mr. Speke take it from him; and Mr. Speke, and another Gentleman went afterwards together, up into my Lord Privy Seal's Room to Read it.

Jury. How long was it ere you saw Mr. Reading, after the Discourse in the Room?

Mr. *Widgins.* I got up presently after they were gone out, and I saw them together at the Door; and as soon as they were gone (as I told you) we both went out into the *Dining-Room*, and went to write down what was said: And within half an Hour, they came back again into the Room. And saith my Master to Mr. Speke, *What makes you so early here? How long have you been here?* Said he, *I called upon you as I was going to Westminster.* And then my Master desired Mr. Speke, to go before to Westminster: And Mr. Reading called for Pen, Ink, and Paper; and went into the *Bed-Chamber*, speaking to my Master to follow him: And so we went away.

Jury. You say, that you saw him there? and not only Heard them Talk, but Saw him?

Mr. *Widgins.* When he came into the Room, the Rugg was over my Head, and they spoke so softly, that I could not hear him very well; but I put it off without his perceiving me, and saw him then, and heard him plain: And when they went out again, I saw them both.

Mr. *Speke.* We open'd the Hangings, my Lord, a little at the Bottom, that he might not suspect any thing, and the Curtains were but half drawn, or
a little

a little more : So that, when he put off the Rug, he might easily see him.

Lord Chief Just. Have you any further Evidence for the KING?

Sir Cr. Levins. My Lord, if your Lordship please, we shall trouble you with no further Evidence: We have proved it by Three Witnesses.

Lord Chief Just. Then Mr. *Reading*, now is the time for you to make your Defence: They have concluded, that are for the KING.

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I am very unwilling, to spend any of your Lordship's time in vain. There is one Part of the Indictment, which I do humbly take notice of to your Lordship before-hand; they are so far from Charging me to be of the Plot, or knowing of the Plot, that Mr. *Bedlow* hath declared the Pressingness of my Perswasions to him from time to time, that he would be very full and positive, in Charging any Man according to his Knowledge. Therefore, I shall not spend any time, my Lord, in speaking to that: I am obliged to Mr. *Bedlow*, that he hath done me so much Right, in saying what he hath said of me about that: But I shall apply myself singly to what he hath given in Evidence against me; and what hath been spoken to by Mr. *Speke*, and his Servant.

My Lord, the Indictment is, That I should endeavour to Perswade, to lessen his Evidence against those Lords, and Sir *Henry Tutchbourn*; that is to say, My Lord *Powis*, my Lord *Stafford*, and my Lord *Petre*: They prove nothing against me as to the other. And, my Lord, because the Indictment doth likewise set forth, that this was done on the behalf of these Lords, and on their account, as it sayes, I shall humbly (before I go on to censure the Evidence) give your Lordship an Account, upon

what Occasion it was, and how I went to see any of these Lords, and Sir Henry Tuckbourn here mentioned.

My Lord, within a few dayes after the Lords were sent to the Tower, Mr. Bulstrode, a Gentleman of the *Privy-Chamber* to his Majesty, did come to me from my Lord Stafford; telling me, That my Lord Stafford desired to be Remembred to me, and to pray me to come to him.

My Lord, I did tell that Gentleman, That though I had a very great Reverence for my Lord, having known him long, and having been my Client for several Years; yet, considering how his Circumstances then were, I should not venture to go to him, till I had acquainted some of the Lords of the Close Committee with it, and had their Leave.

Mr. Bulstrode said, I acted very Prudently in it: And accordingly, I did go, and acquainted the Prince, my Lord Treasurer, the Marquess of Worcester, and some other Lords with it: And they told me, That my Profession did Priviledge me to go; And God forbid, but that Respect should be shewn him, and the rest of the Lords. Hereupon, my Lord, I did go: And when I was there, I acquainted the Lieutenant of the Tower with it; who invited me to Dinner with him: I did so my Lord; and my Lord Stafford was there: And afterwards, he did desire me to go to his Quarters with him: And being there, he told me, That I was not ignorant of what he was Charged with, and upon what Account he was there: And he was pleased to say much, concerning his own Innocency. I told his Lordship, I heartily wished, it might appear he was as Innocent, as he said he was.

Then he desired me, to move for his *Habeas Corpus*. I told him, I thought it not seasonable yet to do it: I also told him, I would not at all admit my

my self to be of Counsel for him, but for his Innocency, and as an Innocent Man; with this, that I did so expressly abhor, and detest the Crime that he was charged with, that though I were of Counsel with him, or in the very highest Degree of Friendship Imaginable, should I discover he was guilty of it, I would be so far from continuing of Counsel for him, that I would come in as a Witness against him.

My Lord, upon these Termes it was, that my Lord took my Advice, and he gave me my Fee, which was two Guineys.

My Lord, afterwards I was desired by several of the Lords, to speak with Sir *Henry Goring*, and Sir *John Gage*, then Prisoners in the Tower: And, my Lord, they did desire me, that I would move for their *Habeas Corpus's*; and, my Lord, I did so. I was then sent to by my Lord *Brudnel*, and several other Gentlemen in the *King's Bench*, Prisoners upon this account: And, my Lord, I did at this Barr, move for several of their *Habeas Corpus's*. And having the direction of the Court, that though they did not deny the granting of the Writ; yet notwithstanding, no benefit should be had of that Writ, unless Mr. *Attorney*, being attended in it, should give Consent to their being Bailed. Accordingly, my Lord, I did attend Mr. *Attorney* in it, and he was pleased to say, That he would not do any thing for the bailing of any, for all that the Writ was granted, till he knew what their Accusers charged them with. I then knew, it was in vain to bring them up, till Mr. *Attorney* was satisfied.

Mr. *Scroggs* and I did go from Mr. *Attorney* to Mr. *Bedlow*, and Mr. *Oats*: And the several Persons, for whom we were of Counsel, being set down in a List, we did also set down our Directions from Mr. *Attorney* about them; and did pray them to let us know, what they had to Charge any of them with. And

if they were easie in their Consenting to their being Bailed, then we did go to Mr. Attorney, to let him know it; and he being satisfied from their own Mouths, did consent to the Bailing of several of them.

My Lord, this did occasion my discoursing several times with Mr. Bedlow, and Mr. Ous, concerning the Nature of the several Charges, against the Gentlemen they had accused. My Lord, during the whole Time of my being Conversant with Mr. Bedlow, (and he hath given your Lordship an Account how I came acquainted with him; though I did desire, Sir Trevor Williams might be here; and did send him a Subpœna, because I knew, he was unwilling to come, unless he were Summon'd; and I should be glad to see him here.

Mr. Bedlow. My Lord, Sir Trevor Williams is in the House of Commons; and ordered me to send for him, if there were Occasion.

Lord Chief Just. Then pray send for him, because Mr. Reading desires it, (which was done.) In the mean time, pray Mr. Reading will you go on in your Defence. But all that hath been spoken, is not much to the Purpose. I would have you apply your self to the Fact sworn, which is comprehensive of all the Indictment; and that is, what happened in the Chamber the Twenty-Ninth of March last: Answer that Fact.

Mr. Reading. I shall, my Lord; but I desire Mr. Bulstrode may be Examined to those Points I have spoken to.

Mr. Bulstrode. My Lord, I desire you would hear me, for he is very much mistaken in what he hath said concerning me: For he seems to say, I came to him, which I did not do; but accidentally met him at White-Hall.

Lord Chief Just. Look you, unless he calls you, you are not to be called by us, as a Witness for the KING.

Mr. Bulstrode. My Lord, he served me with a Subpœna.

Lord

Lord Chief Just. Mr. Reading, would you have Mr. Bulstrode Examined?

Mr. Reading. Yes, my Lord, if you please; I did pray him to be here to that end.

Lord Chief Just. In this Case, though he be a Witness for Mr. Reading, he must be Sworn: Therefore, swear Mr. Bulstrode; (*Which was done.*) Well, what do you ask him?

Mr. Reading. My Lord, all I do humbly desire is, That he will give your Lordship an Account, whether he did not come unto me in the Name of my Lord Stafford?

Mr. Bulstrode. My Lord, I happened one day to go see Sir William Goring, who was my Neighbour in the Country: And, as I was going out, I saw my Lord Stafford walking; And Saluting him, he asked me, *Do you know one Mr. Reading, a Lawyer?* I asked him, *What Reading?* He answered, *That used to be at the Parliament-House.* I said, *I did.* Then said he, *Pray tell him when you see him, I would speak with him, and should be glad to see him.* And in two or three Dayes after, I met with him: And said I; *Mr. Reading, my Lord Stafford asked me, If I knew you? and desired me to tell you, He would be glad to see you.* My Lord Stafford, said he? and seemed surprized at the Name; and I repeated it to him: And this was all that past between me and him. And this was some time in Michaelmas-Term last.

Lord Chief Just. Look you, Mr. Reading, we know, that the Acquaintance you had with Bedlow, and your going to the Lords, was in Michaelmas-Term; the Habeas Corpus's, and the Matter of Bailing, was in Hilary-Term, which ended the Twelfth of February: And therefore, the Business between Mr. Attorney and You, must be during Hilary-Term. But this Fact charged upon you in the Indictment, and Sworn by the Witnesses, being on the Twenty-Eighth, Twenty-Ninth, and Thirty-First of March, that is a quite other Thing: And therefore, I would have you apply your self to that.

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I shall humbly observe your Lordships Directions in that: But I desire to be heard in this other Thing also, which was in Michaelmas-Term. I say,

my Lord, they were desiring of me to advise them, whether they should move in the *House of Lords*, whence most of the Commitments were issued. For, as to some, the Charge was against them in the *House of Commons*, some in the *House of Lords*, some were generally Committed by my Lord Chief Justice *Scroggs*; and according to the Nature of the Cases: So they did desire me, that I would advise them, how to address themselves by one way or other, for procuring their Liberty by Bail, or otherwise. And as to the Writs obtained, and the Bailing of several of them, it was in *Hilary-Term*, which was before the Fact charged upon me. But I did give your Lordship an Account how it was, in order to have it appear Naked before you; and then I should be in your Lordships Judgment, which, I am sure, will be Right. And I do say, my Lord, that afterwards I met several times with my Lord *Powis*, and my Lord *Petre*, at the *Lieutenant of the Tower's House*; and I, Lord Chief Just. Here is now Sir Trevor Williams; Do you desire he should be Sworn?

Mr. Reading. I do, my Lord. Lord Chief Just. Then give him his Oath. Which was done.

Mr. Reading. My Lord, with your Lordships Favour, that which I desire Sir Trevor Williams to give your Lordship an Account of, is this, whether he was not pleased to bring Mr. *Bedlow* to my Chamber, and to recommend me to him about his Pardon?

Sir Tr. Williams. My Lord, Mr. Reading was an Acquaintance of mine; and upon what I knew, I had a great Opinion of his Knowledge in the Law. And Mr. *Bedlow* was a Country-Man of mine; and I was very desirous, he should have his Pardon as Perfect as could be. And in order to that, I Recommended him to Mr. Reading, and desired him to be careful about it. And that is all that I can say.

L. Ch. Just. What further Questions would you ask him?

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I desire to know of him, What Advice he hath heard me give Mr. *Bedlow*, in order to his dealing Ingenuously, and my pressing of him to a full Discovery of the Plot.

L. Ch. Just.

L. C. J. Mr. Reading, as to that, Mr. Bedloe hath already cleared it himself, that in all publick discourses between you and him, you did carry it very plausibly; yet we will not preclude you from having your witnesses speak to that, if you will have them examined to it.

Reading. My Lord, I will trouble Sir Trevor Williams with no more questions.

L. C. J. You need not as to this Point; Mr. Bedloe hath testified, that publickly you did advise him to make full discoveries, and spare no Person.

Mr. Bedloe. I did say so at first, and I will do him justice, he did really and honestly, I believe, give me that advice as to all in publick, and only spoke about those men he was concerned for, towards whom he would make me easie.

L. C. J. Pray, Mr. Reading, will you come to the Fact?

Reading. My Lord, at the time of my being examined before the Committee, I did deliver some Papers which I had from Mr. Bedloe, and under his hand, and which do concern the Evidence I am to give in my own defence: These I do beg the favour may be sent to me, to make use of them for my self, and I shall, as soon as the Court hath looked upon them, return them again.

Mr. Bedloe. There was a Proposition about it in the House of Commons, and the main Paper, which I suppose, Mr. Reading desires to produce, is in Mr. Clares hand to be produced, when called for, if the Court think fit.

L. C. J. Have you it there Mr. Clare?

Mr. Clare. Yes, my Lord I have.

L. C. J. Mr. Attorney, when the Prisoner calls for a Paper, which he himself delivered in, I think it is but fair it should be produced.

Mr. Attorn-Gen. Yes my Lord, I do not oppose it.

Sir Cr. Levins. My Lord, Mr. Reading must understand that this is nothing from us, but he desires such a Paper, which let him make what use of it he can.

Mr. Bedloe. I suppose it is about the Protection for Prickman.

Reading. Mr. Bedloe, if you please to answer it by and by, when it is read, and let me open it my self.

L. C. J. Here is now Mr. Sachewerel, what have you to say to him?

Mr. Sacheverell. My Lord, in the House of Commons we have received a Letter from Mr. Reading, by which he doth desire, for his own justification, to have some Papers sent him, which were delivered to the Secret Committee; I suppose he means a Paper about Mr. Prichard and a Letter concerning him, and likewise a Paper that contained a State of the Evidence against the Lords, which he pretended Mr. Bedloe had dictated to him: That I suppose Mr. Clare hath; for the other two, the House of Commons hath ordered me to bring them here, that if he can use them, or any other, in his own defence, he may have free liberty so to do.

L. C. J. Is there any other thing you would have with Mr. Sacheverell?

Reading. Nothing, my Lord, I humbly thank him for this Favour, and the House too.

L. C. J. Mr. Sacheverell, these Papers you have brought; shall be put into the hands of Mr. Clare, to carry to the Secret Committee, when the Tryal is over.

Mr. J. Wyld. Mr. Reading, pray spare me one word; You are a Lawyer, and you know how to make your defence; speak *ad idem*, the thing you are charged with, the tampering with Bedloe to take off his Evidence against those Lords, or else you do nothing; for we are not about the Plot in general, nor are you charged with it.

Reading. My Lord, I shall do nothing else, I shall not give you the trouble of speaking to any thing else; My Lord, Mr. Bedloe will give your Lordship an account of the Discourse that I had with him at the time that I had been to wait upon my Lord Chief Justice Seroggs; I went to him upon this occasion, Mr. Bedloe desired me to go wait upon my L. Chief Justice, to give him an account about the particular Evidence he had given; I think it was against Mr. Coleman; and that he being with my Lord Chief Justice, my Lord was pleased to Treat him, not as he expected from him; whereupon he fell into great expressions of passion, and went down stairs, and said, it would never be well in England, till there was an honest man than he L. C. Justice. When he had told me this, I told him at what rate his Lordship had endear'd himself to the whole Nation, by his Zeal against the Plot; however, saith he, do me the kindness to beg my Lords pardon, and pray him to accept of

this

this Paper. My Lord, I was extremely sorry, that Mr. *Bedloe* had so misbehaved himself; I had a great kindness for Mr. *Bedloe*, I have sufficiently testify'd it, and now sufficiently suffer for it: and in kindness to him, I went to wait upon my Lord, and deliver him the paper; I told his Lordship, that I was heartily sorry that he had carried himself in such a manner towards his Lordship, but I did desire his Lordship to pass it by, for I did believe Mr. *Bedloe* was very sorry for it. My Lord said, it was sufficiently known that he was not a man of Passion, but that he pittied Mr. *Bedloe*, and desired he would be more careful and discreet for the time to come, for his own sake, and for the Kingdoms; I returned to him, and gave him this accompt, and what was my Lords advice to him. My Lord, when he had his Pardon a drawing, and when he was asked by the King and my L. Chancellor, who was his friend, who was his Council, he was pleased to say that I was his Council, and his friend, recommended by Sir *Trevelyan*, as hath been proved, and when His Majesty was pleased to ask him what Advice I had given him, he returned the King this Answer, That I had bid him speak the Truth with courage, to spare no man where he could justly charge any man, and to trust God and His Majesty for a Reward. The King was pleased to say the Advice was honest, and had him follow it. What I did in this matter, I did in friendship to him, because I had a great kindness for him. I have supply'd him with several Guineys, with a Guiney or two, when he told me he has not had bread. He was pleased to tell me, that he was very sensible of the service I had done him; I appeal to him, whether ever I saw a penny of Money from him in my life; he was pleased to tell me, that upon the receiving of the 500^l. in the Proclamation, he would give me a Third part for that service I had done him, and would certainly repay me whatsoever I had lent him, and the Fees that were due to me. And my Lord, upon this I did likewise tell him, That he had not carried himself well, that he had been a very great scandal abroad, and at home, and that he would not do himself right, till he had advised with Dr. *Stillingfleet*, Dr. *Tillotson*, and Dr. *Lloyd*, I did advise him to go to the Chapel, and upon Conference with those worthy men, I desired him seriously to consider how he could digest so many as 30 Sacraments, which he had taken an obligation of Secresie;

crease; My Lord, *Mr. Wharton* was at that time by, and he hath often heard me give him advice to this effect. *Mr. Wharton* undertook to go to *Dr. Stillingfleet*, but he desired to be excused; I did then pray him to go to *Dr. Tillotson*, *Mr. Bedloe* told me it was no great matter, and so likewise for *Dr. Lloyd*. He told me they were all mercenary Men, that valued 10*s.* above any mans Soul, and at this rate he was pleased to treat them. I told him, I was very sorry, and displeased to hear him to speak so ill of men of so great eminency in the world for Learning and Piety. My Lord, in further discoursing with *Mr. Bedloe*, he told me he was overjoyed, that His Majesty had been pleased to take off the Confinement they were under, for they had not liberty to speak to one another; he, and *Mr. Otes*, and *Mr. Dugdale*: but when it was so granted, that they might now speak together, he told me with exceeding rejoycing, that they could now lay their stories together. He did further tell me, that he had now by him several Witnesses, that whatsoever he bid them swear they would swear, and he did confess he had not done well in some things, particularly in charging *Mr. Griffith*: now my Lord, that *Mr. Griffith* was Steward to *Mr. Sheldon*.

L. C. J. Before you go on in this kind, *Mr. Reading*, I must tell you 'tis not fair: here is Oath made of such and such Facts against you, and you talk of discourses between you and *Mr. Bedloe*; either produce *Mr. Bedloe* to say upon his oath, what he hath told you, or else produce some other witnesses to prove it, if you think it material; Do you think your word shall pass for truth by telling this story? all this matter will be nothing in the case, unless you apply it to discredit the Witnesses, therefore pray produce some proof, and we will hear it; If you'll ask *Mr. Bedloe* any questions, whereby you may entrap him, and make him contradict himself: or if you will produce any other witnesses against him, do it, but you must not be suffered to go on in such discourses as these, and spend time to no purpose.

Mr. Bedloe. My Lord, if your Lordship please to give me leave, I will answer him.

L. C. J. *Mr. Reading*, I must tell you, I have as much patience as another Man; and when you are charged with a Crime, which you your self know, and at first said cannot be aggravated, I thought it fit you should have all fair liberty of speaking to defend your self; I have had a great

deal of patience to hear you already, and so have my Brothers: I cannot say you have spoke unskillfully; I confess your defence is artificial, because 'tis nothing to the purpose: But, we must hold you to the point; if you can say any thing to disprove the Fact of the 28th, 29th and 31st of March, that's the whole matter that lies upon you, as to all other things they signify nothing.

Reading. My Lord, if I understand any thing in my own defence, I did look upon this as so material, as nothing more. My Lord, when I did find this, I appeal to Mr. Bedloe, and ask him this Question upon his Oath, Whether I did not desire him, as I had desired him before, to speak home, in what he knew for truth, that he would do well to remember, that this Land groaned for the shedding of innocent blood; and whether I did not tell him, that if he should go on to add sin to sin, and charge any Man unjustly, to take away his life, whether in stead of preserving the Nation, by which he thought he might well deserve of it, he might not ruine it?

L.C.J. Do you desire that he should be asked that Question?

Reading. My Lord, I do.

L.C.J. Mr. Bedloe, you hear the Question, pray answer it.

Mr. Bedloe. My Lord, I do not deny, but that he hath publickly given me such advice, and hath charged me with doing of wrong in particular to Mr. Griffith; and I do acknowledge that Mr. Griffith had a great deal of wrong, but, How was it? it was by the mistake of them that took him, the Uncle was taken for the Nephew, who was really concerned in the Plot, and that occasioned his trouble. And I told him I was very sorry for that.

Reading. Pray Sir, did he give you a Gold Watch?

Mr. Bedloe. Yes, he did, and I told the Committee, and the Prince of it presently.

M. Justice Wild. Mr. Bedloe, You received several Sums of Money from Mr. Reading, by the Oath you have taken, were those lent to you, or did you take them to be given?

Mr. Bedloe. Whereas he says, That I told him I wanted Bread, it was an unreasonable thing for me to say so, for I had five Dishes of Meat every day allowed me, and How could I then want Bread?

Mr. J. Atkins. And you had good Sums of Money given to you?

Mr. Justice Wild. But, as I understood you, you said, whenever you wanted Money, he supplied you.

Mr. Bedloe. And sometimes gave me Money when I did not ask it.

Mr. Justice Wld. But answer my Question. Did he give you that Money for the intent that you should lessen your Evidence against the Lords in the Tower?

Mr. Bedloe. This money that I received of Mr. Reading, He told me, that he had received Orders from the Lords, that I should have what money I came for; that at present he could not have any great Sum, because they could not have money, for my Lord Stafford, hath he, is selling his Wood, and till that he come in, he hath not wherewithal to provide for his Family, but I have Order to let you have what you want.

Mr. Justice Wld. And he gave you money after that?

Mr. Bedloe. Yes, he did.

Mr. Justice Wld. And upon that occasion?

Mr. Bedloe. Yes, I thought so. And whereas he says, my Lord, that I was to pay him the money again, I must confess he was to have 100 l. a year out of every 1000 l. a year of my reward.

Reading. By the Oath you have taken was that the Reward?

Mr. Bedloe. Yes, by the Oath I have taken, so it was agreed.

L. C. J. I never knew any man go about such a business as this without some invention to palliate it with; they don't use to go down right in suborning Witnesses, and say, here is so much money for you, pray forswear your self, or pray be a Knave, but pray remember that you speak nothing but the truth, and be cautious that you don't swear too much; and so it is all guided with pretence of the desire of Truth, but then they add, You shall have a very good Reward for your Care in it, but if this way should be allowed, to bid Witnesses to speak the Truth, or upon Colour of speaking nothing but the Truth, I cannot tell what will be Subornation. For it is always done upon this Pretence.

Mr. Justice Arkjor. **Mr. Reading.** There fell something from your own mouth that was discouragement enough, you asked him how he could digest 30 Sacraments, which he received a obligation of Secrecy, and advised him to go to Divines to receive Satisfaction about it. That was a discouragement.

Reading. My Lord, I did not mean it so; I did as a Christian, and a loyal Subject, advise him not to shed Innocent Blood.

Blood. Mr. Bedloe, you have brought me here to this Bar, pray remember you and I must be at a Greater

Mr. Bedloe. I always remember it.

Reading. Pray Sir, answer this Question upon your Oath. Did I ever directly or indirectly desire you to Lessen any one Syllable of your Evidence you knew to be true?

Mr. Bedloe. I suppose there is no need to prove that, for there are two other Witnesses have proved it already.

Reading. But, Pray Sir, answer my Question upon your Oath.

Mr. Bedloe. Yes, my Lord, I do upon my Oath declare, That upon my bringing the Lords off from the Charge that was upon them, I was to have such a Reward, and you told me, you had order to draw up blank Deeds.

Mr. J. Wyld. Mr. Reading, pray hear me; He hath gone farther than that, and hath sworn that he did lessen his Evidence against Whitebread and Farnick upon your Liffigation, which is not indeed in the Indictment.

Mr. Bedloe. I did then say at the Old Bailey (because I would not spoil the Design I had upon him, when my Lord Chief Justice asked me, if that were all I could say) I told him, It was all I could say at present, but in time and place Convenient I could say more.

Mr. C. J. That is not the Matter in question now here, But the other Witnesses have sworn it sufficiently. The young Lad swears expressly, that he remembers his Master asked about the Land in Gloucestershire, and you answered you had Order to draw up a Blank Deed for the Settlement: and as for the other Lords, you told him, he should have a good Reward suitable to the Service you should do them. And you, as to that, make no kind of defence, but think we should forget it by your long Discourse to other purpose.

Reading. I would not desire to spend your Lordships time in vain discourses. It lies purely on my Negation, and his affirmation.

Mr. J. Wyld. No, no, it is not, here are two more Mr. Spoke and his Man, that swear the same.

Reading. My Lord, I come to that, and make it for granted the Law is this, That in Cases of this Nature, nay of a much less Nature, no man shall be accused but by lawful Witnesses; And, my Lord, I do insist upon it as David's my Lord Bowelers Case, and I say so. If mine is not Treason, yet it is a very heinous Crime; And I am in your Lordships Judgment,

ment, whether there is a possibility of having these, Mr. Bedloe, and the others, to be lawful Witnesses. Mr. Speke, how worthy a Gentleman soever he is, is one to whom I have done particular Service, I have lent him money, and to this day have it not. That he should go, my Lord, and place himself behind an Hanging, and put a Servant on a Bed, to overhear, and to Evesdrop, which is the term of a Crime in Law. That such should pass for Lawful Witnesses, my Lord, I hope it was never pretended to before, nor will be admitted against me: But, my Lord, all my Comfort is, that when I went to him, I did never propound such a thing to Mr. Bedloe since I was born. And God deale with me here, and in the next World, according to the Integrity of my heart, and the truth of what I speak now. Yesterday sevensnight, when I did not hope to see another Sunday, so spent I was with the barbarous usage I have received, I did desire Dr. Tillotson to give me the Sacrament, for I did not expect to live till the next morning. And I did pray him to remember, against the time when he and I were to meet before the great God, that what I was charged with in this Indictment, is as expressly false, as ever any thing that was sworn against an Innocent man. I can but say this now, come life, come death, the will of His Majesty, and of your Lordships be done. There never stood a more Innocent man at this Bar then I am of this Fact I am charged with. And I do say, my Lord, that having said this, I must, with your favour, proceed to tell you, that I desire Mr. Bedloe will be pleased but to give an Answer to these two Questions, and I have done. Pray Sir, by the Oath that you have taken Did you lay in Provisions of Fire, Coale and Billets behind the *Passage* head-Tavern, and hard by *Charing-Cross*, to burn the City of *Westminster*.

L. C. J. Mr. Reading, we must see Justice done on all sides: If you offer to ask him any Question upon his Oath, to make him accuse himself, we must oppose it.

Mr. J. Dolben. He hath his Pardon my Lord, and it ought not to be objected against him, if so.

Reading. The Pardon of the King doth remit the Punishment, but it doth not hinder its being objected to invalidate his Testimony.

L. C. J. It doth so far set him right, that you shall not make him calumniate himself.

Mr. J. Wyl. No, you shall never object it against him to accuse himself.

L. C. J. Mr.

L. Ch. Jus. Mr. Reading. We are a Court of Law, and you are skilled in the Law; you have no Evidence to defend your self by, and so you think your Protestations must serve for Evidence; When that will not serve your turn, you strive to lead us out of the Way. Upon this Question to Mr. Bedloe there lies this *Dilemma* against you: Either he hath his Pardon for what you object against him, or he hath not: If he hath not his Pardon then he is in danger of Death for the Crime; and must not accuse himself; if he hath his Pardon it doth take away as well all Calumny as liability to Punishment, and sets him right against all Objections. So you know, after an Act of general Pardon, 'tis a Scandal to reproach a Man for that which he is thereby pardoned for. So that if he have not his Pardon, his Life is in danger; if he hath, neither his Life nor Name must suffer, and therefore such Questions must not be asked him. But if you have any other Questions that are pertinent to the Business, I propound them and they shall be heard and answered.

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I took the Law to be that no Man should be accused but by lawful Witnesses, which I took him not to be though he hath his Pardon.

L. Ch. Jus. I understand Lawful Witnesses, or Accusers to be such whose Testimony is not taken away by the Law; if a Man stands so in Court that he cannot be received to give Evidence, he is no lawful Witness. If a Man be convicted of Perjury, he is no lawful Witness, because he cannot be heard at all. But every thing that lessens the Credit of his Testimony doth not make but that he is a lawful Witness, for to take him to be a lawful Witness as long as he can be heard at all. And as for the Eyes-dropping which you from the Term of Law would infer, a Scandal upon Mr. Bedloe, I take it to be a thing that makes much for the Credit of the Gentleman. For he was not the Man that did first detect you, you were detected before by Mr. Bedloe; and as it stood only upon his Testimony, should you deny it, it was but your Negation and his Affirmation; and therefore is concern-

ed him? being a doer of Dark deeds in his own Nature when he engaged himself by his Discretion as much as you) to have some unquestionable Integrity and Credit to detect you further in it, and for his own Vindication. And it is therefore a Credit to Mr. Speke that he was thought such a Person, whose Credit was not to be suspected, and so was set to convict you. So that it is so far from detracting from his Credit, that it shows him a Man repared to be of undoubted Integrity. *Mr. Badloe.* I say this; my Lord, we did design to propose it to another Gentleman of Quality, who had been before acquainted with the Design in General, but we could not find him out to acquaint him with it. *Mr. Speke.* As for what he says of Money he lent me, I will acquaint your Lordship how it was. There was a double return in the Case of my Brother's Election for this Parliament, and he and the other Gentlemen that stood with him (for there were four returned) had gotten Order for the hearing of their Cause, and I had taken a Coppy out before, and paid 6^s and 8^d for it, or thereabouts; and afterwards Mr. Reading comes to my Chamber and brings me another Order, and I told him I had one already, and asked him what he paid for it, he told me ten Shillings. Now I knew it was but six Shillings and eight Pence, for I had paid so before, said I, what need I have another? but I suppose my Brother will pay you. I had before recommended him to my Brother, to manage his Business in Parliament, and I did desire he might be of Counsel for him. I knew what passed concerning the Treaty between Mr. Badloe and him daily, but because he should not suspect me, I did carry my self very fairly and friendly to him, and as I said I desired my Brother to imploy him, and let him be of his Counsel, but my Brother refused, and told me he would have nothing to do with him, for, said he, I hear an ill Character of him. And the ten Shillings for the Order is the Money he speaks of.

L. Ch. Just. Is that all the Money he lent you?

Mr. Speke. Yes, that is all.

Mr. J.

Mr. *Just. Atkins*. Mr. *Reading*, this I must say to you, your Assertion of these Persons with being Evil droppers, is no Assertion at all. For it was necessary for Mr. *Bredloe* to take this County, and it was prudent for him to make use of unsuspected Persons, to have it understood by the Mouth of more then one Witness what your practices were. For if he had not done it, and it had been otherwise discovered, he had been in the same danger that you are in now.

Mr. *Reading*. My Lord, I have done. Since Mr. *Speke* hath been pleased to give you an account of this matter, I desire I may ask him one Question. Whether he did not come to me to be of the Counsell with his Brother?

L. *Ch. Just.* He hath said so already.

Mr. *Reading*. Did not you bring this Gentleman your Brother, to my Chamber?

Mr. *Speke*. Yes, I did.

Mr. *Reading*. Did not you desire me to draw up his Case?

Mr. *Speke*. Yes, I think I did.

Mr. *Reading*. I spent most of a whole Morning in it. Pray did I ever receive a penny of Money of you?

Mr. *Speke*. No, I spoke to my Brother to employ you but he said he had heard an ill Character of you, and he would have nothing to do with you. And you asked me for an Order which I had before for 6^s 18^d.

Mr. *Reading*. Here is this Gentleman Mr. *Hayer* who hath been a Clark there, and knows it to be so in every Order.

L. *Ch. Just.* It is not at all pertinent to the Business we are upon.

Mr. *Reading*. He hinder'd me of receiving a Fee from the other Side, and I am twenty shillings out of Pocket, and yet am thus treated for my kindness. There were three Orders I paid for.

Mr. *Speke*. There were more concerned then my Brother. You delivered but one to me, I know not how many you delivered to the Rest.

Mr. *J. Wild*. I am sorry you disgrace your Profession.

on by making so weak a Defence. What say you to that which pass'd on Sunday Morning at Mr. Bedloe's? Mr. Reading. Mr. Bedloe did desire me to go to the Lords in the Tower to tell them that he was called upon to give in his Evidence against them, and that he could do by no means longer, and he bid me tell them, that is to say my Lord Stafford, my Lord Powis, and my Lord Pease, that if they did not assure him of a good reward he would give in such an Evidence against them as should take away their Lives, and he had Witnesses to do it as well as he himself, but he bid me tell them, if they would give him his reward, he would put in such an Evidence as would do them no hurt at all.

Mr. J. Wylde. This is directly against your and within the Words of the Indictment, is a Contracting with him for a Reward to lessen his Evidence against the four Lords. He told you, as you say, thus and thus, and you agreed to do as he said.

Mr. Dolben. You do speak the Truth plainly now.

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I do say this, that what I have said is true, in the presence of God I speak it. The Lords do know this, and the Lord of Heaven doth know it, he proposed it first to me.

Mr. J. Ark. It is to no purpose to talk unless you can prove it.

L. Ch. Just. Call your Witnesses, and we will hear them. Will the Jury give in their Verdict upon your bare Assertion? We have heard you a great while, if you will call any Witnesses, do.

Sr. James Butler. My Lord, I desire Mr. Reading may be asked whether 56 Guinies were not brought by him to Mr. Bedloe, and paid to him for to lessen his Evidence against the Lords?

Mr. Bedloe. I had sometimes two Guinies, sometimes more but not any such great Sum at once, but I believe more, at several times, and he told me that he had order to supply me at any time with what I wanted.

L. Ch. Just. Come where are your Witnesses Mr. Reading?

Mr. Reading. Here is Mr. Palmer my Lord.

Who was Sworn?

Mr. Reading.

Mr. *Reading*. My Lord I desire this Gentleman may give you an account what Mr. *Bedloe* did say to me concerning the borrowing of any Money, upon the Tuesday morning before I was clapt up. The 30th. of March, as I take it, in the Morning.

Mr. *J. Atk.* That was Sunday.

Mr. *Reading*. It was on Tuesday my Lord, the Day before he received the 500 Pounds. I believe it was the first or second of April. My Lord this Gentleman was there in the Room.

Mr. *Palmer*, My Lord, Mr. *Bedloe* at that time had twenty Shillings in his Hand of his Mothers, as he said; Mr. *Reading* came in, said he, Mr. *Reading*, all my Mony is gone, and I have no more then this, and this I borrowed of my Mother, with that Mr. *Reading* clapt his Hand in his Pocket, and gave him two Guinies. God a mercy saith Mr. *Bedloe*, you are an honest Man and my chief Fountain.

Sr. *Cr. Lewins*. When was this Mony delivered?

Mr. *Palmer*. It was about three Weeks ago.

Mr. *J. Wild*. But he tells you, you were to have a Supout of this Fountain.

L. *Ch. Just.* He doth prove this (what use you will make of it I know not) that on Tuesday three Weeks ago, which we find to be the first of April, he saw twenty Shillings in Mr. *Bedloe*'s Hand, and he said this is all the Mony I have, and you clapt your Hand into your Pocket, and gave him two Guinies, and he said God a mercy, you are my chief Fountain.

Mr. *Just. Atkins*. This was after you saw Mr. *Bedloe* was for your turn. This makes against you.

Mr. *Reading*. I desire he may be asked whether he hath not heard Mr. *Bedloe* confess that he hath had Money several times from me.

L. *Ch. Just.* Mr. *Bedloe* hath confessed it.

Mr. *Reading*. I desire him to tell whether Mr. *Bedloe* did not confess, that he did lay in Fewel behind the *Palsgrave-Head* Tavern to burn *Westminster*.

Mr. *Bedloe*. I acknowledg it, that was part of the Treason I was guilty of, and for which the King Pardoned me.

Mr. *Reading*. I desire to ask Mr. *Bedloe*'s Man one Question, whether your Master when I went along with him to fetch the Privy Seal for the 500 Pounds, did not desire me to lend him Money for the Privy Seal?

Wiggins. He said, he had no Money about him, and asked you if you had any, and desired you would lend him some, and

then I said I had some, and so he said no more.

Mr. Reading. Was there any thing of the Consideration spoken of?

Wiggins. I don't know that, I could not hear it. He spoke it in the open Court, where there were a great many by.

Mr. Reading. I have several other Witnesses, that will give you an account, that when he hath not had any Money to pay a Reckoning, he hath had it from me at several times, and the very Day when he had got this Money, the 500 Pounds, and it was laid upon the Table in the Room, in the Tavern where he was, he did then desire me to let him have a Guiney for to pay the Reckoning. And he would pay me in the Afternoon.

Mr. Bedloe. I do not deny it, but that I have received several Sums of Money, for he alwaies told me, I must trouble no body else when I wanted Money, but him.

Mr. Just. Atkins. They who have to deal with Men of such Art as you are of, must use some Art with you.

Mr. Just. Wild. Did you ever promise to pay him back the Money again?

Mr. Bedloe. No, my Lord, but he was to have 100 Pound a Year out of every 1000 Pound a Year, that I should have from them Lords.

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I do here declare that I never had any more from the Lords in the Tower then thus. I had from my Lord Stafford 6 Guinies, and I do not know I had one more. I had never from my Lord Bellasis more then two Guinies, nor from my Lord Petre then 5. And that was at the time when I carried him the Paper which I give your Lordship an account of, by and by: I never spoke to my Lord Arundel, though I met him often; nor with my Lord Powis, then upon this account. *Mr. Bedloe* did desire me to go, and tell the Lords in the Tower that if they did well reward him, he would make the Charge he had against them, very easy. My Lord, I did tell him, this is an affair which I cannot in prudence deal in, for said I you are a designing Man, and how you will deal with me afterwards I don't know. Said he, tis in your power *Mr. Reading*, by this that I have said to do me a mischief, because if you do discover what I have said to you, you will be believed, but if I should offer this against you, I shall never be believed. And with all the Imprecations in the World I do curse my self, if I did directly or Indirectly offer to perswade him to diminish his Evidence, but he proposed it to me. But said I, here is one *Mr. Dugdale* and he may give Evidence against my

my Lord *Stafford* though you don't, and what will you do as to him; believe me, said he, that I deal entirely with you, by this token: did not *Dugdale* come to you to desire you to draw up his Evidence? and so he did my Lord, and told me he would be responsible for it. I told him I was unwilling to meddle with such an Affair, but if he would come to my Chamber I would give him what leisure I had, in order to the drawing up of his Evidence into a Method, but he never came. Mr. *Bedloe* told me, said he, believe me in all the rest by this Token, have a care of him, he is set on purpose to insnare you. Saith he, tell from me he shall do him no harme, for he hath promised to say nothing against my Lord *Stafford*, but what I will have him to say, I desire Mr. *Bedloe* will answer this upon his Oath. Did I ever know one *Nicholas Jordan* till you acquainted me with him? Had not he some Estate in *Gloucestershire*.

Mr. *Bedloe*. Yes, my Lord, I did tell Mr. *Reading*, that I would have such an Estate settled upon me of my Lords in *Gloucestershire*, and his Words to me were these. That he had Order to draw blank Deeds for the conveying of that Estate, which my Lord would signe in ten Days after his Discharge.

Mr. *Reading*. He told me that for the other Witnesses he would do well enough with them, and desired me to tell my Lord *Stafford*, that he would do so and so, let him have but a Reward, and beleiving of it I went to the Tower. I asked my Lord *Stafford* if he knew one *Nicholas Jordan*, he told me he did, he had been a Tennant of some Estate of his. Mr. *Bedloe* bid me ask him whether he should not have a Provision of Money secured to him out of that Farm. My Lord, I told him, I would acquaint his Lordship with it. I did so, and my Lord *Stafford* was pleased to tell me that he would not give him six Pence; that he did value himself upon his own Innocency, and the Infamy of his Accusers, that if he should offer to give him any thing, he should look upon it as the greatest part of his Guilt; but said he to me, Mr. *Reading*, this I must confess, you have been often with me, I am much indebted to you for Fees for coming to me, if you will but write a Letter to me, that you are not able to attend my Business, and neglect other men's at this rate of being paid, &c. that therefore I should not take it ill that you do not come to me any more, unless you may have an assurance of being satisfied and rewarded for it. And saith he, thereupon I'll write you this in answer, that I'll give you the Sum of two hundred Pounds to be paid to you within ten Days after my acquittal, and saith he I will give you this assurance too,

that you shall have this 200 Pounds secured to yo assoon as ever you shall desire it. My Lord, this being the Summ, but withall remember, saith he at the same time, I do here declare, and pray do not fail of remembring it, that I will not directly nor indirectly promise Mr. Bedloe six Pence. I went to my Lord Powis, from whom I never saw six Pence in my Life, and he did declare to me that he would not for any thing in the World be Guilty of the making of him a promise of one six Pence, (and this is certainly so,) nevertheless if Mr. Bedloe will not go on so do me a mischief as hitherto he hath done, and shall not go on to charge me unjustly, when I am acquitted he shall find that I will do what shall be like a Gentleman, but I won't promise one Farthing.

L. Ch. Just. You have said enough Mr. Reading.

Mr. Reading. My Ld. Petre said he would give never a Farthing.

Mr. Just. Wild. This is against your self.

Mr. Reading. I can't help it, I did it to save innocent Blood, God's Will be done with mine. I think I was bound to do this, and I had sinned against God Almighty and my Country if I had not done it. My Lord, I did come back to Mr. Bedloe and he did ask me if I had been with the Lords in the Tower, I did tell him yes, and I did ask him whether there was any body in the Bed by him. He asked me, what say the Lords? I think I did tell him in very little different terms from what I have now told you, be it of what construction it will; and whereas he says, that there was 1000^l and Writings to be drawn, I never opened my Mouth to him of such a thing.

L. Ch. Just. What say you to the Estate in Gloucestershire?

Mr. Reading. That was only to secure the 200^l to me *pro consilio impenso & impendendo*. My Lord, when that was done, Mr. Bedloe was pleased to tell me, for I must confess he did desire me to give him an account, and I did come very late as Mr. Speke says. I was in his Chamber about an Hour, it seems it was that time that this Gentleman, as he says, was there, but Mr. Bedloe not being at home I went away, and being to give him an account next morning, it seems this Gentleman was there also, for he hath sworn it; when I came I gave him this account, and God knows it was no other, nor did I ever hear talk of any Deeds drawing.

Mr. Speke. Did not you say, that the Deed was to be signed in ten Days.

Mr. Reading. I did tell him that my Lord would give me a Letter wherewith he would promise me to secure the payment of 200 Pounds within ten Days after his acquittal.

Mr. Speke.

Mr. *Speke*. I say what you said. You had orders to draw up a Deed, from my Lord of *Stafford*; which my Lord had promised faithfully to seal within ten days after he was discharged.

Mr. *Reading*. It was only a Deed for 200 l. to be paid to me *pro Consilio impenso, & impendendo*; and to be secured upon that Estate in *Gloucestershire*.

Mr. *Speke*. Nay, I don't know; I heard no Latine there.

L. C. J. But what is that to Mr. *Bedloe*?

Mr. *Justice Wild*. Why should you discourse with Mr. *Bedloe* about your Pention?

Mr. *Reading*. My Lord *Stafford* did say, When you have the money, the 200 l. do you dispose of it as you think fit.

L. C. J. This is nothing to the purpose, but an endeavour, by multiplicity of words, to make us forget what has been sworn. Answer the matter of the Paper whereby the Evidence was lessened.

Mr. *Reading*. My Lord, upon this, Mr. *Bedloe* was pleased to tell me thus in Answer: That he would take their Lordships words; and bid me go along with him, and he would go fetch that Evidence that he had, and would put in such and such Evidence: I should write, and he should dictate. I went along with him to *York-buildings*, where he said his Mother lay: And there he said he had left his Papers; but when he came there, they were not there, but he told me his memory should serve: and we went back to the Chamber. And, my Lord, it seems these Gentlemen were there before, and Mr. *Bedloe* sent them away; and when they were gone, we went into a Room together, where he did dictate to me every syllable I wrote. And when he had dictated, and I had writ it, I read it, and he read it again himself. And having perused it, he said, This is that which, I think, is kinde to them; and this is that I can come off with well enough in saying it: for I can make it out afterwards, that it was by hearsay. And this, said he, do you take along with you, and carry it to the Lords, and let me have their Answer. And this is that very Paper that I did write in Mr. *Bedloe's* Chamber by his directions, and dictated from his mouth.

Mr. Justice *Atkyns*. And you did carry it to the Lords?

Mr. *Reading*. Yes, I did. And, my Lord, when I had done this, I did ask him this Question, (I did not direct him any one syllable; but as he dictated, so I wrote:) What he had to say against my Lord *Bellasis*, and my Lord *Arundell*? He told me, that though he was resolved to be kind to those Lords, yet he was resolved the other should die. And he told me that the 4000*l.* and the 1500*l.* that was to be paid to Sir *George Wakeman*, was to be paid by my Lord *Bellasis*. And, my Lord, I began to write, and did write five or six lines here in this Paper, and then left off. My Lord, when I had done this, I went to the Tower the first opportunity; I did come to my Lord *Stafford*, and I shewed him this. He told me, that he did finde that Mr. *Bedloe* would now begin to be an honest man. My Lord, afterwards I went to my Lord *Petre's*, and shewed it to him; and he did at that time, my Lord, give me five Guineys; and before that I never saw a peny of his money in my life. I went to my Lord *Powis*, and when I came, I found Sir *Henry Titchborne* in the Chamber; and it being late at night, and it being Parliament-time, and I having persons that staid for me, I did desire to be excused: though Sir *Henry* was pleased to walk out upon the Leads, leaving my Lord and me together, yet did not I shew him any one syllable of this Paper, nor did I say any thing to him concerning it. My Lord, I think it was upon the Munday-morning that I came to Mr. *Bedloe's*: he was not within; I then came to the Painted Chamber, and I was going up to the House of Lords; and Mr. *Bedloe* met me in the Court of Requests, or the Painted Chamber, one of them, and this Gentleman was with him. And there he asked me for a Paper: I had writ it out before, and 'tis this very Paper that is now with Mr. *Clare*. He did desire me after I had been with the Lords, to deliver a Copy of this to them to write it out: and I did so; and this is writ in the third person, the other was writ in the first person. And I think, there is no other alteration in it. My Lord, that which I did deliver to this Gentleman Mr. *Bedloe* before Mr. *Speke*, was in the first person; the other was in the third. What they did with it afterwards, I cannot tell. My Lord, after this, the 500*l.* was received, and he promised to pay me

me all the next morning, and prayed me that I would come to his Chamber. But when I came, I missed of him. His Clerk told me he was gone abroad. I came here to Westminster; and when I came there, I went up to the Speakers Chamber to speak with my Clyents there: but when I came up, the door was fastned, and I was Arrested. My Lord, I have done; and let it be with me, or against me, this is what I said to the Committee of Secrecy; and I speak to your Lordship under the greatest tye and obligation to speak truth in the World, that this is all I know. And whereas Mr. Bedloe did tell your Lordship, that this Writing that I have drawn was not as he directed, but that I had carried it to the Lords; and their Lordships did correct it; and I brought it back again; that I did bring him another Paper: that very Copy which I writ out in the Chamber in the third person I have, and this that is produced against me, is in the first person; and I desire your Lordships to look upon it, and judge whether there be any correction more than the alteration of the person.

Then both the Papers were shewn to Mr. Bedloe.

Mr. Bedloe. Your Lordships may see both these Papers are fair written, without interlining: but there were above forty interlineations in that Paper that was written in my Chamber.

L. C. J. This agrees with what you said before, that when you did put in any thing that was home, he would correct it, and say, This is Treason, and this will charge them; and so mended it. And it was natural there should be two Papers: that which was to be kept for the Lords, was in the third person, importing that he said so and so; and the other was in the first person, which was to be kept by Mr. Bedloe, for the helping of his memory, I heard so and so, that he might know how to observe his Contract. But what say you to this, that the first Paper was, as Mr. Bedloe says, corrected, and had many interlineations, and cannot therefore be the same with that you produce?

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I hear it; I have but this thing to answer, let it avail me any thing or nothing. I speak it in the presence of God, (pray favour me) this Paper is the very Paper that I did write out; there is no other interlineation in it than what you see. It never went out of my hand,
from

from the time of my writing it in Mr. Bedloes Chamber, till the time that I shew'd it them in the Tower, and I did deliver it to Mr. *Sagebevel*.

Mr. *Justice Wild*. Ay, but there was another Paper, there was a Paper corrected according to your intention, and then you caus'd this Paper to be writ out, and it was never seen since.

Mr. *Reading*. No other, upon my word.

Mr. *Justice Wild*. But he swears it, and 'tis obvious to the least understanding here.

Mr. *Reading*. My Lord, I have only this to say, that 'tis not true.

L. C. J. But it is very probable, and it is sworn to be true.

Mr. *Reading*. I can only say, 'Tis not true.

Mr. *Justice Wild*. I have one thing to say to you: With what colour could you justify what you did, to carry the Kings Evidence to the Prisoners, if it were no more than that?

Mr. *Reading*. I have but this to answer for that; I did not know it was a Crime.

Mr. *Justice Wild*. There is no mean capacity, but what knows that is a Crime.

Mr. *Reading*. I did look upon it as a Crime if I had not done it, and *Conscientia errans ligat*: it was a point of Conscience to me to do it. I did think it a duty I owed to God, to prevent Perjury: and a duty I owed to my Country, to prevent Innocent Blood.

L. C. J. Will you impeach the Justice of the Kingdom in that manner? You are a Man of the Law, don't you know that no man ought to be of Counsel for a Prisoner in Felony or Treason till they are assigned? and for you to carry the Kings Evidence to the Prisoner, as you your self confess, how can you excuse it? and here are Witnesses that heard you contract with him to lessen his Evidence, and *cui bono*? Was not this out of favor to the Lords in the Tower, to get them off? Now you by multiplying your discourse, instead of vindicating your self, have spoiled the matter, and confessed that which amounts to the whole Charge.

Mr. *Justice Atkins*. And you confess you were to have

two Hundred pound from my Lord *Stafford*, which you were to distribute as you thought fit.

Mr. Justice Jones. And you have confessed, *Mr. Reading*, that not onely you have endeavoured to take off *Mr. Bedloe*, but *Mr. Dugdale* too: for it was you first started that point.

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I have no more, I did never desire him to speak one word less than the truth and the whole truth; but I did my endeavour to prevent Perjury, and the shedding of innocent Blood; and this I did as a good Christian. My Lord, I did desire also to shew you this Paper; but you were pleased to over-rule it, that it should not be read.

L. C. J. We think it not material; we over-rule it not, but by way of admittance that you say true.

Mr. Reading. Pray will you see, is there any variance between the two Papers?

L. C. J. There is only the addition of the words concerning my Lord *Bellasis*, and that was to strike terrour in him, to make him come into the bargain too.

Mr. Reading. I desire *Mr. Bedloe* would look upon this Paper also: is this your writing, Sir?

Mr. Bedloe. Yes, it is.

Mr. Reading. Since your giving me this Paper in your Chamber, have you ever seen it till to day?

Mr. Bedloe. No, I have not.

Mr. Reading. Then, my Lord; I pray this; there is one *Prickman* a Merchant in Town that is broke; he wrote to me for a Protection, and I desired *Mr. Bedloe* that he would help him to a Protection; he said he would, and spoke to the Prince and others of the Lords, but could not get one, for I call'd upon him to know his Answer; but withal, told me, he had a better contrivance than any Protection could be given him from a single Lord, and that is this, That he would say, he was one of his Witnesses, and that upon that accompt he would get him a Protection from the Committee of Secrecy, and they would believe what ever he said to them. I told him, I did not know of what signification that might be to my Friend; he told me, Yes, for he had given it to several already. I asked him how he could justify it if it were questioned; oh, said he, let him say any thing, That he hath heard some body or another in a Coffee-house call me Rogue. My Lord, I never saw *Mr. Prickman*

since; but saith he, Here, I'll give you this business for the protecting of him, and he under-writes this as from Mr. Treby: *Pray do not fail to come to me every hour, to receive what Orders the Committee shall send to you by me, that we may not neglect His Majesties special business; and if you do receive any let or hindrance by any person whatsoever, send to me, and I will cause those people to be so severely punished, as so great a contempt does merit.* This was, my Lord, before my treating with the Lords, in time, the 25th of March. My Lord, when I did find he had got such tricks and ways, I did apprehend and resolve (pray give me your favour in the expression) not to do any prejudice to the Kings Evidence: for, my Lord, I do think he is not an Evidence for the King, that does go about by any indirect means to commit a Crime. But, my Lord, I think he is a Servant to the Nation, and does a very good piece of service to the King, that goes about the taking away the guilt of Innocent Blood.

L. C. J. Indeed, Mr. Reading, we must not suffer this: I told you before, that by such discourse, you impeached the Justice of the Kingdom: if you had suspected Mr. Bedloe's honesty, or truth, you should have gone to the King or Council, or the Secret Committee, (they are men of Honour, and would have been as tender of mens Lives, as you or any other man) but for you to do it of your self in this way, shews it is but for a plausible excuse to colour your corrupt dealing.

Mr. Bedloe. This Protection was given us by the Secret Committee for Mr. Prickman.

L. C. J. It does not appear but that Prickman might be a Witness.

Mr. Reading. My Lord, I have but this, and I have done. At the time when I was taken, I have several Witnesses to prove it, that I was resolved to give his Majesty, or the Secretaries, an account of it; and I did ask Mr. Bedloe for an Account he had given against the Queen; and I had the Paper by me at the same time when I was taken: and I have several Witnesses by me, to prove that at that time—

L. C. J. Mr. Reading, This is nothing to the purpose: will you have done? unless you can speak to the Fact you are charged with. The Court hath had a great deal of patience with you already.

Mr. Reading. I have done, my Lord.

L. C. J. Gentlemen of the Jury, your patience hath been very much exercised already, by the long discourses *Mr. Reading* hath made; I shall therefore be short in my directions. He stands indicted for Suborning *Mr. Bedloe* in the Evidence that he was to give concerning the Lords in the Tower that were impeached of Treason by the House of Commons, and Sir *Hen. Titchborne*. This is the substance of the Indictment. There is an Inducement in it concerning this horrid Conspiracy, and the persons that have been executed for it, *Coleman, Grove, and Ireland*; but as to that, it is admitted by *Mr. Reading*, and it lies so much in every ones knowledge, that it should hardly need to be proved. So then the question remains only a question of Fact concerning Subornation of Perjury; which hath been fully proved to you, not only by *Mr. Bedloe*, who hath related the whole Transaction, but also by *Mr. Speke*, who tells you that *Mr. Bedloe* did inform him how it went on from time to time: and thereupon, to make the matter plain, and to suppress so abominable a practice, it was thought there was no better way to discover this deed of darkness, and to catch a Knave, but to bring him into a secret place where he might speak freely, thinking there were no Witnesses to testify against him; which was intended to have been done the evening of the 28th of March, which was Friday: but *Mr. Reading* and *Mr. Bedloe* not then meeting, the next morning at seven a clock was appointed, when *Mr. Reading* did come, and asked if no body were there; of which being assured, he thought himself secure and secret. Then *Mr. Bedloe* asked him, What say the Lords in the Tower? what says my Lord *Stafford*? *Mr. Reading* told him, that as to my Lord *Stafford*, he should be sure of the Estate in *Gloucestershire*, for my Lord *Stafford* had ordered him to prepare a Blank Deed, which within ten days after his Discharge, should be perfected. And the rest of the Lords did assure him, that after they were acquitted, in proportion to the Service he did them in lessening of his Evidence, he should have a very plentiful reward. Thereupon, there arose farther discourse. Saith *Mr. Bedloe*, I won't rely upon their promise, I will have something under their hands. No, saith *Mr. Reading*, that they think not convenient. Saith *Mr. Bedloe*, I must go and deliver in my testimony to the Secret Committee immediately, and therefore, *Mr. Reading*, the Writing must be made presently, or nothing can be done. Why, saith *Mr. Reading*, can't you put it off till Wednesday? No, I cannot, says he. Well then, saith *Mr. Reading*, I will go speak with the Lords in the Tower, and I'll bring you their Answer, and be with you on Munday morning. Afterwards, when they went out of the House, *Mr. Speke* and

and the other Witness came from the places where they were privately put, and they saw *Mr. Reading* going out. *Mr. Reading* and *Mr. Bedloe* within half an hour came back again to the House, and were private together. Upon Munday morning *Mr. Speke* was to watch and see the delivery of this Paper, and he gives you a very rational and distinct accompt, (and he is not a man that the Prisoner can any way impeach in his credit) he tells you, he saw him deliver the Paper out of his hand to *Mr. Bedloe*, and *Mr. Bedloe* put it towards his pocket, but afterwards put it behind him, and he followed him, and took it out of his hand. And this Paper is here, which contains the purport of the Evidence to be given against the Lords in the Tower; but so minced, that it is all but hearsay, and nothing will touch them as to the matters for which they are charged: here you have the Paper under his own Hand.

Now he comes to make his defence; and what hath he done? he hath made a very long discourse, but no defence at all to the matter of the Indictment. He says nothing against the credit of the Witnesses, but hath confessed in effect the whole matter that he is charged with; for what had he to do, to carry the Evidence to the Lords in the Tower, and to go from one to another, to tell them thus and thus, and to receive promises from them of rewards, either in general or particular? He hath made Confession of the whole of his Charge in the Indictment; and without it, there is such undoubted Testimony, nothing impeaching the Witnesses, that I shall need to trouble you no further. Do you go together and consider of it, and we will receive your Verdict.

L. C. Baron. Gentlemen of the Jury, it hath been so fully repeated by my Lord, that I shall not need to do any thing of that; but there is one little piece of the Evidence which I desire you would take notice of: *Mr. Bedloe* says, the Paper given him upon Munday in the Painted Chamber, which he carried behind him, and *Mr. Speke* took away, and which *Mr. Reading* brought him from the Lords, did contain ten times much milder Evidence than the Paper dictated by him on the Saturday; and that Paper was forty times less than that which he had given into the Secret Committee.

Mr. J. Wild, (to Sir John Cutler.) Sir John, what Paper is that you have in your hand?

Sir John Cutler. 'Tis only the Names of the Jury, my Lord.

L. C. J. You do well to take the Names of the Jury with you, if you withdraw, that you may know one another: but I suppose you won't be long out.

Mr. Justice Wild. I spoke it, because you are to have no Papers with you but what are under Seal.

Then

Then the Jury withdrew, and after a short recess, returned again to the Bar; and being called by their Names, severally answered.

Cl. of Cr. Gentlemen, Are you all agreed of your Verdict?

Omnes. Yes.

Cl. of Cr. Who shall say for you?

Omnes. Foreman.

Cl. of Cr. How say you, is Nathaniel Reading guilty of the offence whereof he stands indicted, or not Guilty?

Foreman. Guilty.

Cl. of Cr. This is your Verdict, you say, that Nathaniel Reading is Guilty of the offence whereof he stands indicted, and so you say all.

Mr. J. Wild. 'Tis a very good Verdict.

L. C. J. It is a very good Verdict, the matter lay in a small room, and I wonder how Mr. Reading could make it so long.

Mr. J. Atkins. He was the greatest Witness against himself.

L. C. J. You of the Jury may take your ease.

Then the Court Adjourned till Five of the Clock, being then half an hour past One.

About half an hour after, the Court returned again, and Proclamation being made for Attendance, the Lord Chief Justice spoke to the Prisoner Convicted, then standing at the Bar, thus.

L. C. J. **M**R. Reading, I have been here upon your Tryal to day, and you are convicted of a very Great and Heinous Crime; there remains nothing now, but to receive the Judgment of the Law, and the rule of Law is, That in all cases the Court should consider

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quantitatem delicti & qualitatem personæ, and accordingly pronounce their Judgment.

As to the quantity of the offence, you your self did admit in the beginning of your defence, that it was not capable of aggravation, but looks rather like Treason then a Misdemeanor; and so I shall not speak to that, for any flourish would but found in diminution of it.

Then we have nothing to consider but the quality of the person, and of that there might be a great deal said, if we consider your person as a Lawyer, one that should be a wise and prudent man, to be able to advise, a Minister of Justice to assist the Court wherein he pleads, and ought to be a person of untainted fidelity, that he may keep his Clients secrets; and for a Lawyer to be convicted for such an offence, is that which aggravates it beyond all expression; and I think we can do no less to Evidence the care we have of the Kings People, than to shew that there shall be greater severity used against such persons offending; and 'tis a great credit and benefit to the profession, that the Members of it for such offences shall be dealt with more severely than we should deal in any other case: So far will we be from lessening it in this respect. For I would have no man of the profession of the Law that should do thus, be able afterwards to draw people to him to trust him with their business; but his offence should be publicly known to all the world, that men might know him, and not employ him. In one sense, 'tis true, he may be trusted with a secret, by the same Reason that a known Liar may be, because his word is never to be believed.

There is another thing that we regard in your person too; if you were a man of a great fortune, or a large estate, I do not see but we should set that which might be called a Ran-

son, rather than a Fine in this case; but it not being so, we have taken it into our consideration to do it with measure; but we will supply that defect by a punishment of another nature, according to the old saying, Qui non habet in crumena luat in corpore.

Therefore the judgment of the Court is this; That you be Fined 1000 l. That you be imprisoned for the space of One year; and that upon Monday next, between the hours of Eleven and Twelve, you be set in the Pillory for the space of one hour in Palace-yard in Westminster.

And I will tell you, your offence is so great, and bath such a Relation to that which the whole Nation is concerned in, because it was an attempt to baffle the Evidence of that Conspiracy; which if it had not been by the Mercy of God detected, God knows what might have befallen us all by this time; And still the Parliament have it under their consideration how to prevent any further mischief by it; and for you in such a way as this, to do what you can to suppress the Evidence, is such a crime, that we have reason to suspect, that the rage of the people will be so great against you, that it might endanger your life. Therefore we have taken care to give a charge to the Sheriff, and the Justices, that the Peace might be kept, and that no ill consequences may happen to you, but only the shame and infamy to which you are condemned, and which you do deserve as well as any Man that ever was convicted.

Then the Court Adjourned to Hicks's-Hall upon Wednesday the 30th of April, and the Keeper went away with his Prisoner.

On the Monday following the Prisoner was set in the Pillory, according to the Judgment of the Court.

F I N I S.